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APRIL

Lovelorn

STIRRING STORIES of REAL ROMANCE

10¢

All-Romance
Number!

FEATURING
MAIL-ORDER MARRIAGE
BLINDED by STARDUST
KOREA KATE

OH, DARLING, DARLING
...YOU'RE TOO FINE AND
BEAUTIFUL FOR ALL
THIS!

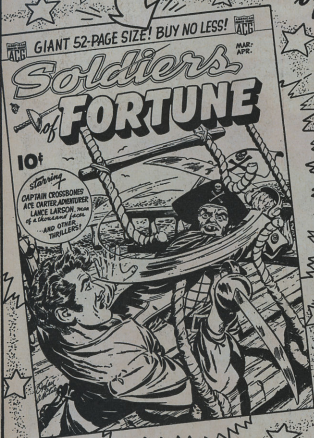
AND I--- I LOVED HIM---BELIEVED
HIM WHEN HE TOLD ME THOSE
VERY SAME WORDS---





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STANDS!

ROYAL ROMANCE



"DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DYING TO KNOW, READER... YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE AN ACTUAL LIVE PRINCESS! WELL, PUT YOURSELF IN MY SHOES! SOMETIMES IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THIS..."



THERE SHE IS... THAT'S PRINCESS ALETA OF BULVANIA!

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL... LIKE A STORY-BOOK PRINCESS COME TO LIFE!

STRANGE... I'VE HEARD IT ALL COUNTLESS TIMES... BUT IT ALWAYS SENDS THE SAME THRILL THROUGH ME!



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"HOMAGE...ADMIRATION...REVERENCE...ALL CAME MY WAY
...AND I REVELED IN IT!"



THIS FOR ME...BECAUSE
I WAS BORN INTO
ROYALTY!

"THE MASSES WOULD THROW FOR A GLIMPSE
OF PRINCESS ALETAYES, EVEN IN 1951, IN THIS
MODERN AGE OF DEMOCRACY, PEOPLE HADN'T
QUITE LOST THEIR VENERATION FOR ROYALTY!
AND AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED, THE MASSES
EXISTED MERELY TO ADMIRE AND PAY HOMAGE
TO ME!"



"THE REVOLUTION IN BULVANIA HAD EXILED MY FAMILY TO AN
EXCLUSIVE LIFE ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA! BUT EVEN THERE MY
FATHER, THE EX-KING, HADN'T LOST HIS AUTOCRATIC HABITS..."

ALETA, YOU ARE NOW
20... I HAVE DECIDED
THAT IT IS TIME FOR
YOU TO MARRY!



THERE ARE MANY ROYAL
PRINCES ON THE RIVIERA
...I'LL TRY TO FIND ONE
I CAN FALL IN LOVE
WITH!

LOVE? WHAT HAS LOVE TO DO
WITH A ROYAL MARRIAGE?
I HAVE YOUR HUSBAND
PICKED OUT FOR YOU!
PRINCE MAXIMILIAN
OF THE HAPSBURG
DYNASTY... THE MOST
ROYAL FAMILY IN ALL
EUROPE!



BUT... BUT,
FATHER... HOW
CAN I AGREE TO
MARRY HIM BEFORE
I KNOW WHAT HE
LOOKS LIKE... OR
WHETHER I'LL BE
HAPPY WITH
HIM?

THAT IS UTTERLY UNIMPORTANT! IT'S YOUR **DUTY**
TO MARRY INTO NOBILITY SO THAT YOUR CHILDREN
WILL BECOME KINGS AND QUEENS! THE MATCH
WITH MAXIMILIAN HAS ALREADY BEEN ARRANGED!
HE ARRIVES HERE TOMORROW AND
YOU WILL MARRY HIM
WITHIN A MONTH!



"THE KING HAD SPOKEN! I KNEW I HAD TO OBEY, EVEN WHEN
ALL MY FOND DREAMS OF LOVE AND ROMANTIC MARRIAGE
HAD BEEN SO CRUELY SHATTERED! BUT ONE FERVENT HOPE
STILL THROBBED IN MY HEART ALL THAT SLEEPLESS NIGHT..."

PERHAPS MAXIMILIAN WILL BE **STRONG AND HANDSOME**
AND **BRAVE**... PERHAPS HE'LL BE THE MAN OF
MY DREAMS!



"BUT MORNING BROUGHT PRINCE MAXIMILIAN... AND HEART-BREAK!"

SO THIS IS ALETA!
HMM... WELL, I PRESUME
SHE WILL HAVE TO DO... BUT
I AM FORCED TO ADMIT THAT
SHE IS GETTING THE BETTER
OF THIS MARRIAGE DEAL!

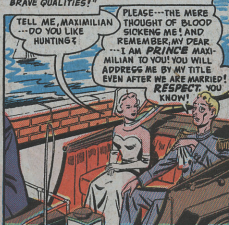
OHH...NOT ONLY
IS HE UGLY, BUT
CONCEITED!



"BUT I TRIED GIVING HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT...PERHAPS HE HAD SOME NOBLE OR BRAVE QUALITIES!"

TELL ME, MAXIMILIAN
...DO YOU LIKE
HUNTING?

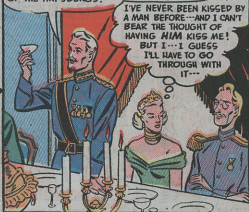
PLEASE...THE MERE
THOUGHT OF BLOOD
SICKING ME! AND
REMEMBER, MY DEAR
...I AM PRINCE MAX-
MILIAN TO YOU! YOU WILL
ADDRESS ME BY MY TITLE
EVEN AFTER WE ARE MARRIED!
**RESPECT, YOU
KNOW!**



"NO MATTER HOW HARD I LOOKED, I COULD FIND NOT A SINGLE TRAIT TO ADMIRE IN MAXIMILIAN... HE WAS WEAK, DISSOLUTE, VAIN! BUT DESPITE THE FACT THAT I KNEW I COULD NEVER LOVE HIM, THE DAY WHEN OUR ENGAGEMENT WAS TO BE ANNOUNCED FINALLY ARRIVED!"

AND NOW...THE KISS THAT WILL SEAL THE UNION BETWEEN MY ROYAL FAMILY AND THAT OF THE HAPSBURGS!

I'VE NEVER BEEN KISSED BY
A MAN BEFORE...AND I CAN'T
BEAR THE THOUGHT OF
HAVING HIM KISS ME!
BUT I... I GUESS
I'LL HAVE TO GO
THROUGH WITH
IT...



"MY FIRST KISS...AND REVULSION WELLED UP WITHIN ME! WAS I ACTUALLY TO MARRY A MAN WHO FILLED ME WITH SUCH LOATHING?"

I... I CAN'T ENDURE IT...
I'D RATHER DIE THAN MARRY
HIM! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY
...AWAY...



"IN A DESPERATE FRENZY, I TURNED... AND FLED!"

I SAY, WHAT'S THE
MATTER WITH HER?
DID I...ER...SCARE
HER WITH SUCH A
PASSIONATE
KISS?

ALETA
...COME
BACK
HERE!
I COMMAND
YOU!

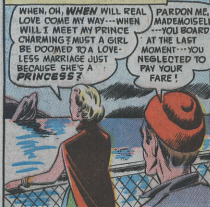


"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I DISOBEYED MY FATHER! SPURRED ON BY FEAR OF PURSUIT, I RAN TO THE ONE PLACE WHERE THEY WOULDN'T THINK TO FIND ME... THE DOCKS!"

OH...AN EXCURSION BOAT
TO THE ISLAND OF CAPRI...
AND IT'S JUST ABOUT TO
LEAVE! IF...IF I CAN
ONLY GET ABOARD...



"A CRUISE TO THE ROMANTIC ISLE OF CAPRI... A GOLDEN MOON GLEAMING OFF THE WATERS OF THE BLUE MEDITERRANEAN! YES, IT WAS A PERFECT BACKGROUND FOR ROMANCE... AND I WAS ALONE!"



WHEN, OH, WHEN WILL REAL LOVE COME MY WAY... WHEN WILL I MEET MY PRINCE CHARMING? MUST A GIRL BE DOOMED TO A LOVELESS MARRIAGE JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A PRINCESS?

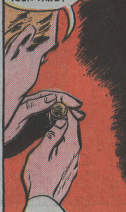
PARDON ME, MADMOISELLE... YOU BOARDED AT THE LAST MOMENT... YOU NEGLECTED TO PAY YOUR FARE!

I... I'M AFRAID I NEGLECTED TO BRING ANY MONEY ALONG! I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU ONE OF MY RINGS AS SECURITY UNTIL I CAN SELL SOME OF MY JEWELRY IN CAPRI!



JUST A MOMENT... MAY I SEE THAT RING?

IT'S MUCH TOO BEAUTIFUL TO LANGUISH IN THE SHIP'S SAFE, MADMOISELLE! KEEP IT... I'LL PAY YOUR FARE!



A PERFECT GEM LIKE THAT BELONGS ONLY ON A LOVELY HAND LIKE YOURS! I KNOW YOU MAY THINK ME BOLD, MADMOISELLE... BUT YOUR BEAUTY... IT... IT'S CAPTIVATING!



HE'S THE HANDSOMEST MAN I'VE EVER SEEN... BUT SINCE HE'S A COMMONER, I MUSTN'T ENCOURAGE HIM!



I UNDERSTAND YOUR SILENCE... YOU'RE RELUCTANT TO SPEAK TO A STRANGER! ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF... DUKE RUDOLF OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SAVOY!



YOU... A DUKE?

YES... I'M TRAVELING TO CAPRI IN COGNITO, BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE TO BE BOTHERED BY AUTOGRAPH-HUNTERS! BUT WHEN I SEE YOU, IT MAKES ME SORRY YOU'RE A COMMONER... BECAUSE...

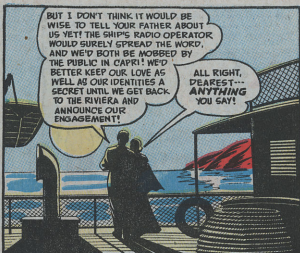
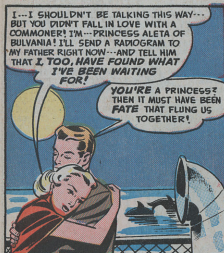


...I KNOW YOU'RE THE GIRL I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL MY LIFE!

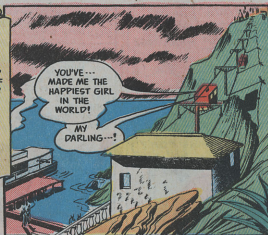


OHKKH!

"YES, IT HAPPENED THEN... LIKE A STREAK OF LIGHTNING ACROSS A TEMPESTUOUS SKY! ONE MOMENT WE WERE STRANGERS... AND THE NEXT, I WAS IN HIS ARMS, THRILLING TO HIS STRONG EMBRACE, THE FEEL OF HIS LIPS ON MINE! THIS WAS SOMETHING I HAD NEVER KNOWN! THIS WAS, AT LONG LAST... MY PRINCE CHARMING!"



LEND THEN CAPRI---FABULOUS ISLE OF ROMANCE, WHOSE STEEP CLIFFS ROSE LIKE THE FACETS OF A SHINING DIAMOND FROM THE BOSOM OF THE MEDITERRANEAN! ALONE ABOARD THE FUNICULAR RAILWAY THAT TOOK US FROM THE SHORE TO THE TOWN ABOVE, WE KNEW THE DELIGHT OF FERVENT KISSES---AND THE WORLD WAS OURS!--



THEN, IN THE TOWN OF CAPRI---AFTER RUDOLF HAD BOUGHT SOME NEW CLOTHES FOR ME---



BUT WHEN I QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE INCIDENT---



"ALL THAT NIGHT I DREAMED BLISSFULLY OF RUDOLF, OF MY NEW-FOUND LOVE... BUT A LOUD MURMURING OUTSIDE MY WINDOW WOKE ME EARLY THE NEXT MORNING! WHEN I WENT TO INVESTIGATE..."



THAT'S HER WINDOW... THERE SHE IS!

THAT'S PRINCESS ALETA!

OH-HH!

"DENYED BY THE GAPIING CELEBRITY-SEEKERS, I HURRIED TO RUDY'S ROOM..."

YOU SAID WE WERE GOING TO KEEP OUR IDENTITIES SECRET! DID YOU TELL ANYONE MY REAL NAME?

WELL, YES... I HAD TO TELL IT TO THE HOTEL MANGER TO GET YOU A DECENT ROOM... BUT HE PROMISED HE WOULDN'T BREATHE A WORD OF IT TO ANYONE! BUT DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD ABOUT IT, DARLING... I'VE GOT EVERYTHING ARRANGED! WE CAN ESCAPE THOSE CELEBRITY HOUNDS BY SNEAKING OFF TO THE BLUE GROTTA... ONE OF THE GREATEST WONDERS OF THE WORLD!



"BUT WHEN WE LEFT THROUGH THE HOTEL'S REAR EXIT..."

PAPER, SIGNORINA? ALL ABOUT THE PRINCESS ALETA... HOW SHE RUN AWAY FROM HER FATHER, THE KING, AND COME HERE TO CAPRI TO ELOPE!

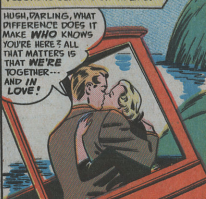
HOW... HOW DID THE NEWSPAPER GET HOLD OF THE STORY? NO ONE HERE KNEW ABOUT IT BUT YOU, RUDOLF!

WELL, THE WHOLE TOWN KNOWS ABOUT IT BY NOW... AND IF WE DON'T HURRY, THE CROWDS WILL BE SWAMPING US IN ANOTHER MINUTE! COME ON!



"ON OUR WAY DOWN TO THE BEACH, RUDY'S IMPETUOUS KISSES SILENCED ALL THE QUESTIONS BURNING ON MY LIPS!"

HUSH, DARLING, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHO KNOWS YOU'RE HERE? ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT WE'RE TOGETHER... AND IN LOVE!



"DOWN AT THE DOCKS, HE HURRIED ME INTO A MOTOR-LAUNCH... AND BEFORE I COULD CATCH MY BREATH, WE WERE RACING THROUGH THE WAVES!"

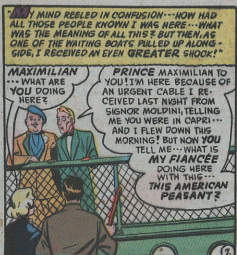
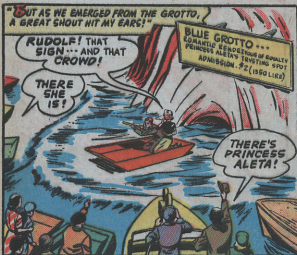
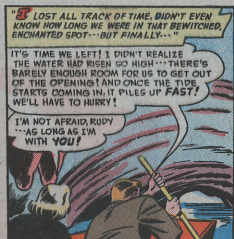
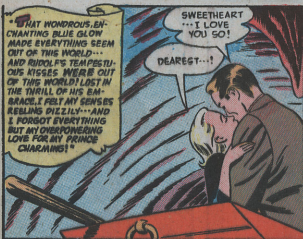
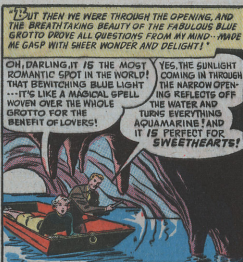
THERE... THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT ALL THIS! YOU HAD THE FUNICULAR AND THIS BOAT WAITING FOR US... AS IF IT WAS ALL ARRANGED... AS IF YOU KNEW WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TO FLEE FROM THOSE CELEBRITY-CHASERS!

LOOK, SWEETHEART... THERE'S THE ENTRANCE TO THE BLUE GROTTA STRAIGHT AHEAD!



THE GROTTA IS A GREAT NATURAL CAVE INSIDE THAT SEA-CLIFF... BUT THE OPENING IS SO LOW THAT YOU CAN ENTER IT ONLY DURING LOW TIDE, AND WHEN THE WATER IS CALM! THAT GATEKEEPER WILL HELP US IN... SO GET SET FOR THE MOST ROMANTIC SIGHT OF YOUR LIFE, DARLING!







I TURNED TO FLEE FROM THE SCENE OF MY HUMILIATION
...AND SAW THE SOLID RING OF GAPING SPECTATORS HEMMING
ME IN! THERE WAS NO ESCAPE THIS WAY...I COULDN'T BRAVE
THEIR SCANDAL-HUNGRY STARES!"



I TOO LATE I REALIZED THAT THE ENTRANCE WAS
NOW ALMOST ENTIRELY COVERED WITH WATER...
AND THAT THE SUCTION WAS DRAWING ME RELENT-
LESSLY INWARD! DESPERATELY, I TRIED TO POLE BACK
...BUT THEN...



DAZEDLY, THROUGH A RED HAZE OF PAIN, I FELT MYSELF BEING SWEPT INTO THE GROTTO --- AND THERE, THE SHOCK OF THE COLD WATER AWOKED ME TO MY DEADLY PERIL!"

THE... THE WATER'S RISING FAST... AND THERE ARE ONLY A FEW INCHES REMAINING BETWEEN THE WATER AND THE ROOF OF THE GROTTO! I--- I'LL DROWN IN A FEW MORE MINUTES!



SIGNOR CUMMINGS... IT IS **SUICIDE** TO TRY TO SAVE HER NOW! EVEN IF YOU **DID** GET INSIDE ALIVE, YOU WOULD **DROWN** IN THERE WITH HER!

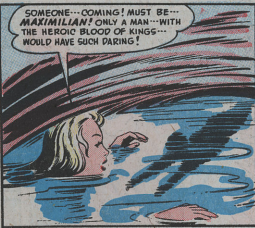
LET THE FOOL GO, MOLDINI!... AND GET THIS BOAT OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE SUCTION DRAWS ME IN!



HE BROKE AWAY! COME BACK, SIGNOR... IT IS CERTAIN DEATH!

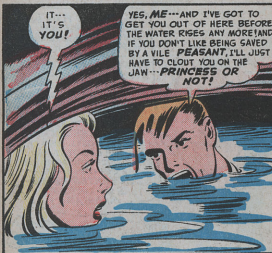


SOMEONE... COMING! MUST BE... **MAXIMILIAN**! ONLY A MAN... WITH THE HEROIC BLOOD OF KINGS... WOULD HAVE SUCH DARING!



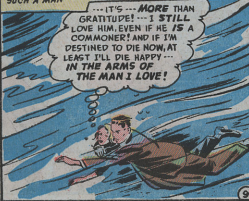
IT... IT'S YOU!

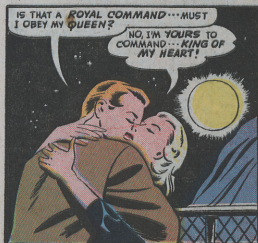
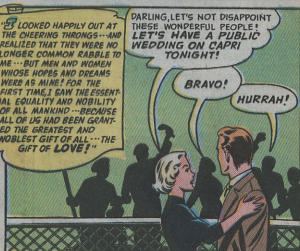
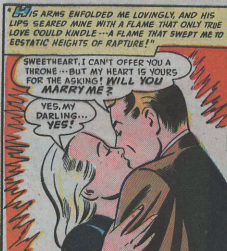
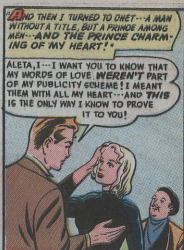
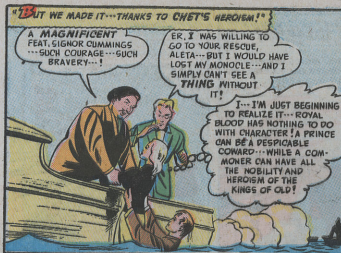
YES, **ME**... AND I'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE WATER RISES ANY MORE! AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE BEING SAVED BY A VILE **PEASANT**, I'LL JUST HAVE TO CLOUT YOU ON THE JAW... **PRINCESS OR NOT!**



HIS STRONG ARMS SEIZED ME, DREW ME UNDER... AND THEN WE WERE CAUGHT UP IN THE SWIRLING TIDES! AND AS DEATH REELED CLOSE, I MARVELED AT HIS COURAGE! IT WASN'T HARD TO DIE... IN THE ARMS OF SUCH A MAN...

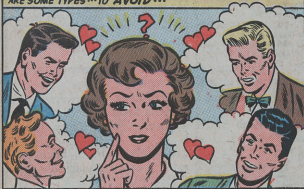
...IT'S... **MORE** THAN GRATITUDE!... I STILL LOVE HIM, EVEN IF HE IS A COMMONER! AND IF I'M DESTINED TO DIE NOW, AT LEAST I'LL DIE HAPPY... **IN THE ARMS OF THE MAN I LOVE!**





SWEETHEART, Beware!

KAREN HAS A PROBLEM...A TOUGH ONE! WITH SWARMS OF MEN IN PURSUIT, HOW CAN SHE CHOOSE WISELY? AS A HINT, HERE ARE SOME TYPES...TO AVOID...



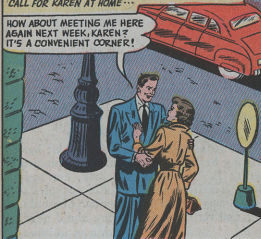
THERE'S KEN, WHO'S IN CONSTANT NEED OF GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT...

WHAT SHALL I DO, KAREN? SHALL I CHANGE MY JOB? SHOULD I TAKE A NIGHT COURSE? DO YOU THINK I OUGHT TO ASK FOR A RAISE? SHOULD I...



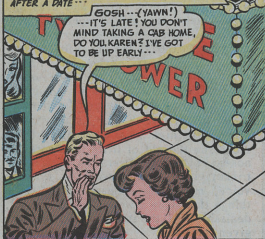
THEN THERE'S MIKE, WHO WON'T, FOR SOME REASON, CALL FOR KAREN AT HOME...

HOW ABOUT MEETING ME HERE AGAIN NEXT WEEK, KAREN? IT'S A CONVENIENT CORNER!



AND JED, WHO DOESN'T SEE HER SAFELY HOME AFTER A DATE...

GOSH...-(YAWN!) ...IT'S LATE! YOU DON'T MIND TAKING A CAB HOME, DO YOU, KAREN? I'VE GOT TO BE UP EARLY...



AND PHIL, WHO BREAKS DATES RATHER OFTEN... AND FREQUENTLY AT THE LAST MOMENT...

I'M AWFULLY SORRY, KAREN, BUT SOMETHING'S COME UP...YOU UNDERSTAND!

OF COURSE, I DO, PHIL!



LIKE EVERY GIRL IN THE WORLD, KAREN DREAMS OF HER LOVER-TO-BE...BUT...IF HE'S ANY ONE OF THESE TYPES, SWEETHEART, BEWARE! ROMANCES ARE SHATTERED, NOT BUILT, BY BOYS LIKE THAT!



The *Little THINGS*

LENORE WAS UNUSUALLY quiet as she and Fred left the movie house and walked towards his car. But she did not *feel* quiet, for at one point during the movie, where the leading man had leaned across the table to touch the sleeve of the woman he loved, Lenore had come to a big decision!

It was about Fred, of course. "People will say that I'm a fool," she thought, "to give him up! There's nothing wrong with Fred! He's sweet and kind and would make any girl a wonderful husband!" She fingered the engagement ring she wore, as though feeling it for the last time. "Most girls, anyhow, but Fred's not for me! He...he isn't *romantic*!"

Wistfully, Lenore thought about romance, the kind she longed for but had never gotten from Fred. As they drove through the night, silent at each other's side, she thought of little love notes, a nosegay of Spring flowers, an unexpected trinket given for the love of it, a man's voice, murmuring endearments...all the things that made a woman feel beautiful, desirable! All the things Fred had never given her!

He was looking at her inquiringly now, wondering about her silence, too polite to break it. Lenore drew a deep breath. She *had* to tell Fred and it might as well be now!

"Park somewhere along here, Fred," she said, indicating that any place would do. "There...there's something I want to tell you, and I'd rather not talk about it at home, with the folks around."

Obediently, Fred stopped the car and turned to Lenore. "You sound serious," he observed, noting the tiny frown on her forehead. "Is anything wrong?"

She might as well not evade the matter, but come straight to the point. "Yes, Fred, there is. It's us! We're wrong for

each other! I want to return your engagement ring!"

Slipping it off her finger, Lenore dropped the ring into Fred's hand, which seemed numb and helpless. "Why? Why?" he asked, dazed.

"It's hard to explain, Fred, because you're so good!" Lenore stumbled over the words. "But you...you don't seem able to love me as I would want to be loved. We're not gay and...and romantic, like other engaged couples! We're stuffy and dull! I don't want that kind of marriage...so..."

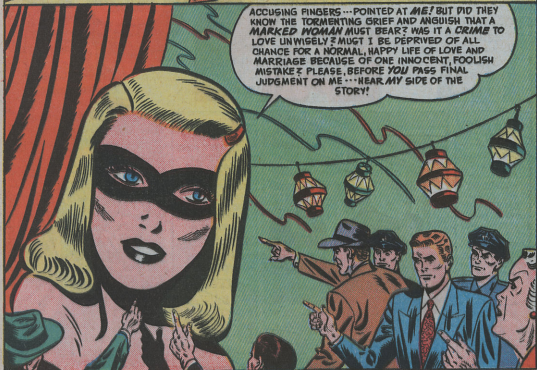
As her words trailed off, Fred tried to take her hand, to hold her, to keep her near him. But Lenore, knowing that tears were coming, opened the door of the car and ran, blindly into the night! Even at such a moment, she thought bitterly, Fred was tongue-tied, speechless...

Lenore never saw the car that hit her, grazing her in its swift passage, sending her to the street unconscious, her body limp. The first glimmerings of consciousness came to her in a murmur of words, low and thrilling, in a voice she'd never heard. "My darling," a man was whispering, "don't be hurt! I couldn't stand it if you were hurt! You feel so small in my arms, so defenseless! Please, baby, open your eyes!"

Lenore's eyes fluttered open just a little bit and then closed again, swiftly. It was Fred! Fred was holding her close, telling her how lovely she was, how life without her was unimaginable to him! "I know I've been reserved, darling, and stupid about lots of things...but never inside me!"

His voice choked and Lenore could bear it no longer. Opening her eyes, she looked up into Fred's anxious face...and smiled. Then, without a word, she raised her lips to his!

MARKED WOMAN



"IT REALLY OPENS WITH A BANG..."

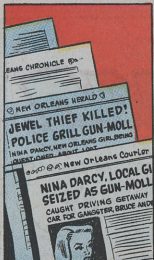


"WAS IT ALL ACTUALLY HAPPENING TO ME, QUIET NINA DARCY... WITH THE MAN I'D INTENDED MARRYING LYING DEAD IN A POOL OF BLOOD? THE AWFUL TRUTH BURST UPON ME LIKE A BOMBHELL WHEN..."

"YOU'RE HIS GUN-MOLL, EH? C'MON, SISTER--IT'S HEAD-QUARTERS FOR YOU!"

"BUT--BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!"





WE DIDN'T FIND THE JEWELS ON ANDERS OR IN THE CAR! **WHERE ARE THEY?** WHERE'D YOU HIDE THEM? COME ON... **TALK!**

BUT I --- I TELL YOU I DON'T **KNOW**... I DON'T **KNOW ANYTHING** ABOUT THE JEWELS! PLEASE... PLEASE LET ME GO --- I CAN'T STAND THIS MUCH LONGER!

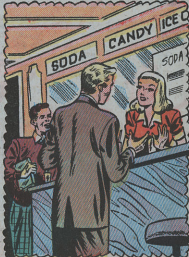


GOOD... THEN MAYBE YOU'LL CONFESS! START YOUR STORY ALL OVER AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING... WE'LL CATCH YOU IN A SLIP-UP YET!

BUT... BUT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU THE **TRUTH!** I'M NOT A GUN-MOLL... I NEVER KNEW BRUCE WAS A CRIMINAL... I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT MYSELF **AGAIN!**



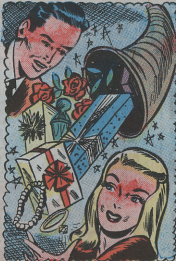
"**IT WASN'T A VERY EXCITING LIFE FOR A 19-YEAR-OLD GIRL... I WAS ALWAYS BUSY HELPING MY MOTHER OUT IN THE SMALL CANDY STORE WE RUN IN NEW ORLEANS... THE STORE WAS ALWAYS CROWDED, THANKS TO THE BOYS WHO FLOCKED IN TO SEE ME...**"



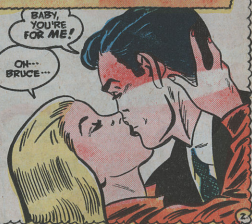
"**BUT SOMEHOW, I ALWAYS FELT THEY WERE TOO JUVENILE... I LONGED FOR SOMEONE SUAVE, SOPHISTICATED, MATURE! THAT'S WHEN I MET HANDSOME BRUCE ANDERS AT A LOCAL DANCE ONE NIGHT... AND FELL FOR HIM, HARD!**"



"**HE SWEEPED ME OFF MY FEET WITH LAVISH GIFTS... AND I NEVER EVEN DREAMED THAT THE MONEY HE SPENT ON ME, THE JEWELRY HE GAVE ME, HAD BEEN STOLEN! TO ME, THEY WERE TOKENS OF LOVE... AND I THOUGHT I WAS THE LUCKIEST GIRL ALIVE!**"

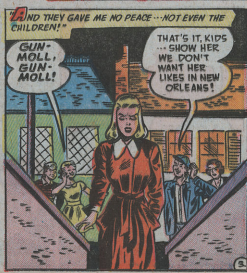
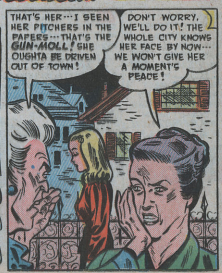
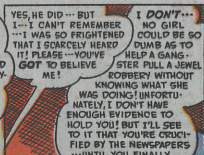
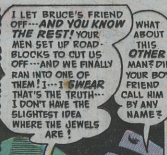
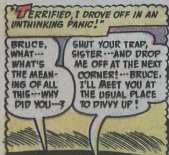
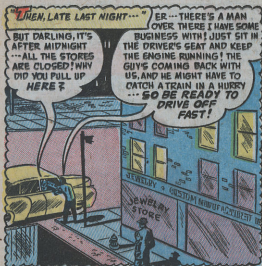


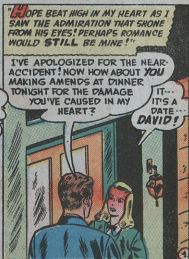
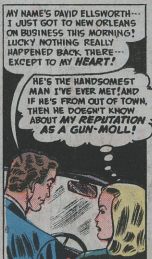
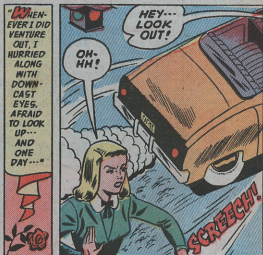
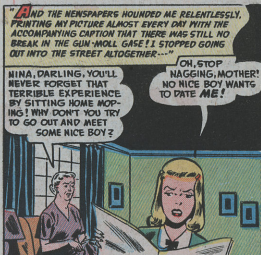
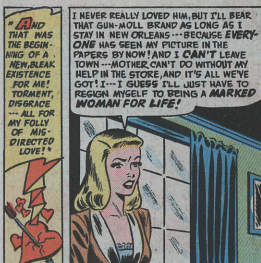
"**AND THEN CAME THAT RAPTUROUS NIGHT WHEN THE WORLD WAS MINE... WHEN, WITHIN HIS ARMS, I LEARNED THE MEANING OF ROMANCE!**"



BABY, YOU'RE FOR ME!

OH... BRUCE...





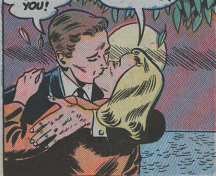
"FROM THEN ON, MY HEART POUNDED TO ONLY ONE RHYTHM--- DAVID--- DAVID! HE BECAME MY HOPE, MY LIFE, MY LOVE! BUT ALWAYS, A COLD FEAR CLUTCHED MY SOUL--- THE DREAD THAT SOMEDAY, HE WOULD LEARN!"



"THEN, ONE NIGHT---THE THROBBING RAPTURE OF PARADISE ITSELF BECAME MINE---DAVID'S SEARCHING LIPS SEARED MINE WITH A WILD, IMPETUOUS ARDOR---AND I KNEW THAT COME WHAT MAY, THIS WAS MY MAN!"

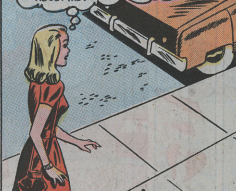
SWEETHEART
... I LOVE YOU!

DAVID---
DARLING!



"YES, IT WAS LOVE! AND NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I FEARED LEST DAVID DISCOVER MY PAST! DREADING MALICIOUS NEIGHBORS, I ARRANGED ALWAYS TO MEET HIM AWAY FROM HOME..."

LUCKY HE ONLY READS HIS HOME-TOWN PAPERS, WHICH HE GETS BY MAIL! I ONLY HOPE HE DOESN'T CATCH A GLIMPSE OF MY PICTURE ON THE NEWSSTANDS--- THEY'RE STILL CARRYING STORIES ABOUT ME!



"BUT WHEN I STOLE UP BEHIND DAVID TO SURPRISE HIM WITH A KISS..."



OH-HH!

WHY, HELLO, DARLING... I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE HERE SO SOON! COME ON---READY FOR A RIDE INTO THE COUNTRY?

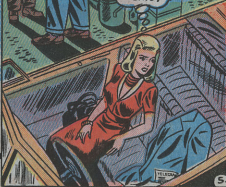
HE---HE'S PRETENDING NOTHING'S WRONG... ACTING AS IF I DIDN'T CATCH HIM READING THAT STORY ABOUT ME! BUT THAT HASTY WAY HE PUT THE PAPER ASIDE--- HE KNOWS!

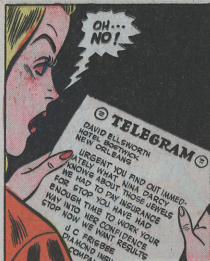


"BUT WHY... WHY ALL THIS DECEPTION... AND WHY DID HE KEEP ON SEEING ME IF HE KNEW ABOUT MY DESPICABLE PAST? THE ANSWER CAME THAT NIGHT WHEN WE PULLED UP AT A FILLING STATION..."

FILL 'ER UP... AND CHECK THE TIRE PRESSURE!

THERE'S A TELEGRAM STICKING OUT OF HIS COAT POCKET---AND IT'S GOT MY NAME ON IT! I---I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT IT SAYS!

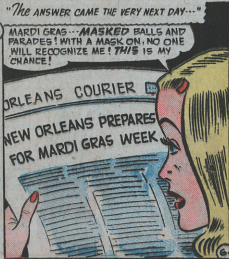
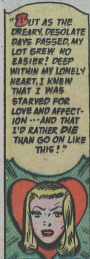




"IT WAS AT THIS MOMENT THAT MY HEART BROKE... THAT I KNEW AN ANGUISH DEEPER THAN EVEN MY PAST TRIALS HAD CAUSED! I HAD HOPED, LOVED... AND NOW..."

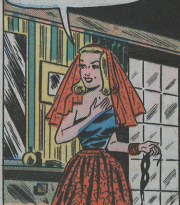


"I KNEW ONLY ONE THING---THAT LIFE HAD TURNED TO BITTER ASHES! I HAD TO GET AWAY FROM HIM---AND NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!"



TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT, I SPLURGED ON A SPANISH BELLE COSTUME...ONE THAT I KNEW WOULD MAKE ME THE BELLE OF THE MARDI GRAS!"

THIS MASK IS JUST PERFECT! I WON'T BE RECOGNIZED...AND IT DOESN'T HIDE MY GOOD LOOKS! I'D BETTER HURRY...I HEAR THE PARADE PASSING!

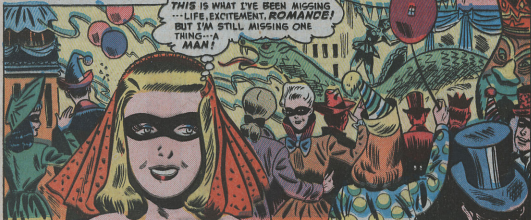


THE WHOLE CITY'S TURNED OUT...BUT I SEEM TO BE THE ONLY GIRL WITHOUT AN ESCORT! OH, WELL...I'LL FIND A MAN SOON ENOUGH...THEY'RE ALL NOTICING ME!



AND THEN...THE GLAMOROUS, ROMANTIC, PICTURESQUE MARDI GRAS...A SCENE TO SET THE PULSES RACING TO THE THROBBING TUNE OF GAITY, LOVE!"

THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN MISSING...LIFE, EXCITEMENT, ROMANCE! BUT I'M STILL MISSING ONE THING...A MAN!



SUDDENLY... "COME ON, LOVELY ONE...EVEN WITH THAT MASK ON, YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN NEW ORLEANS! WE'RE GOING TO MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER!"



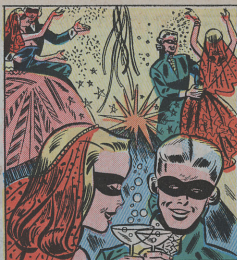
"THE STRANGER'S TOUCH SENT A STRANGE THRILL THROUGH MY RACING HEART! OFF WE WHIRLED INTO THE SWIRLING, HAPPY, DANCING THROGS...AND I FELT MYSELF BEING SWEEPED UP IN THE INFECTIOUS GAITY, DRINKING DEEPLY OF THE WICKED, HEAVY WINE OF MARDI GRAS!"

I WAS **WRONG** WHEN I SAID YOU WERE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN NEW ORLEANS! YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL ON EARTH!

OH, HOW I HOPE ALL THIS NEVER ENDS...NEVER!



"THE GLORY OF THAT FIRST TRYST NEVER SEEMED TO END! THROUGH THE NIGHT MY DASHING, MYSTERIOUS PARTNER WHIRLED ME... THROUGH THE HEAVY ECSTASY OF MAGIC, ROMANCE!"



"THEN, AS DAWN BROKE OVER THE CITY, A NEW HAPPINESS CAME! FOR, HELD IN A STRONG EMBRACE, I FELT MYSELF KISSED WITH A CARESSING TENDERNESS THAT KINDLED MY HEART..."

SWEETHEART... LOVELY ONE!



"STRANGE!"

"...I'D THOUGHT DAVID'S FIERY, TEMPESTUOUS KISSES HAD AWAKENED ME TO THE ONE TRUE LOVE... BUT NOW HERE WAS THIS STRANGER'S GENTLE TENDERNESS AROUSING THE SAME FEELINGS IN ME!"

IF I CAN REALLY LOVE MORE THAN ONE MAN, THEN I... I GUESS I'M JUST FICKLE! AND IT'S LUCKY THAT I AM, BECAUSE NO MAN CAN EVER REALLY BE MINE... NOT EVEN THIS ONE!

IT'S ALL BEEN TOO WONDERFUL FOR IT TO END HERE AND NOW... AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT! WE'LL MEET HERE TOMORROW NIGHT, BEAUTIFUL... ON THIS VERY SPOT!

"I FERVENTLY PROMISED TO MEET HIM... AND THEN MADE MY WAY HOME, DELIRIOUS WITH ANTICIPATION!"

I KNOW IT'S ALL GOT TO END AS SOON AS THE WEEK IS OVER... BECAUSE AS SOON AS HE FINDS OUT I'M NINA DARCY, GUN-MOLL, HE'LL NEVER WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN!... BUT MEANWHILE, I'M GOING TO CRAM ENOUGH FUN AND ROMANCE INTO THIS ONE WEEK TO LAST ME A WHOLE YEAR!



"SO IT WENT, NIGHT AFTER HEART-THROBBING NIGHT... UNTIL THE VERY CLIMAX OF THE FESTIVITIES... THE LAST EVENING OF MARDI GRAS!"

WE CAN'T EVEN DANCE... THE STREETS ARE TOO CROWDED!

WHO CARES? IT ONLY GIVES ME AN EXCUSE TO HOLD YOU CLOSER!

"BUT THEN, IN A SUDDEN SURGE OF THE CROWD, WE WERE TORN FROM EACH OTHER'S EMBRACE... AND I FOUND MYSELF BEING SWEEP AWAY BY ANOTHER MAN!"

WAIT... LET ME GO... I... I'VE GOT TO FIND MY PARTNER! BUT I... I CAN'T EVEN CALL TO HIM... I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME!

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? C'MON, BABY... I'LL SHOW YOU A BETTER TIME THAN THAT GUY DID!



"DULLY, I REALIZED IT WAS NO USE LOOKING FOR MY LOVE IN THIS CROWD... HE WAS LOST TO ME, FOREVER!"

MAYBE THIS WAS THE BEST AND EASIEST WAY TO PART... WITHOUT HIS KNOWING MY TRUE IDENTITY! I COULDN'T HAVE BORNE HIS LOOK OF CONTEMPT WHEN I FINALLY UNMASKED... BECAUSE HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE RECOGNIZED ME AS THAT NOTORIOUS GUN-MOLL! I... I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE BEST OF IT... AND TRY TO BE GAY WITH ANY PARTNER!

LET'S GO, HONEY... GUMP'N I GOTTA SHOW YA!



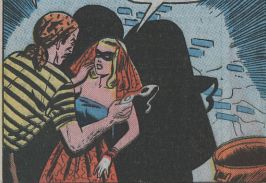
"BUT THEN..." WAIT... WHY ARE WE GOING INTO THIS ALLEY? THE PARADE'S BACK THERE...

SURE... BUT IT'S QUIETER HERE!



NOW D'YOU KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE?

OH... YOU... YOU'RE BRUCE'S FRIEND... THE MAN WHO HELPED HIM IN THAT JEWEL ROBBERY! AND NOW I REMEMBER YOUR NAME... IT'S NICK HARWOOD!



YEAH... AN' I'M GONNA MAKE SURE YA NEVER MENTION THAT NAME TO THE COPS! WHEN I READ IN THE PAPERS THAT THEY WERE TRYIN' TO GET THE NAME OUTA YA, I KNEW I'D HAVE TO SHUT YA UP BEFORE YA DID REMEMBER IT! THAT'S WHY I BEEN TAILIN' YA EACH NIGHT TO THE PARADES, WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO GET YA AWAY FROM THAT GUY SO I COULD SHUT YA UP FOR GOOD!

OH, NO... NO!



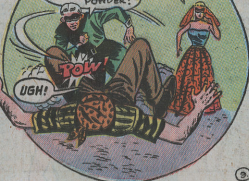
"THE GUN WAS RAISED, READY! I CLOSED MY EYES IN TERROR, FEELING THE COLD CHILL OF DEATH ITSELF... WAITING FOR THE SHOT THAT WOULD BRING AN END TO ALL PAIN, ALL BEAUTY, ALL LIFE..."



"I HEARD THE SHOT, BUT DIDN'T FEEL A THING... WAS THIS WHAT LIFE AFTER DEATH WAS LIKE? BUT THEN, AS I HEARD THE SOUNDS OF A STRUGGLE AND OPENED MY EYES..."

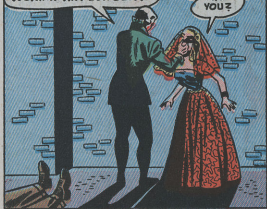
TAKE A POWDER, RAT... A SLEEPING POWDER!

I'VE BEEN SAVED! HE SAVED ME!



YOU CAN TAKE OFF THAT MASK NOW. **NINA DARCY!** THIS GANGSTER WILL LEAD US TO THE JEWELS--- **YOU'RE NOT A MARKED WOMAN ANY LONGER!**

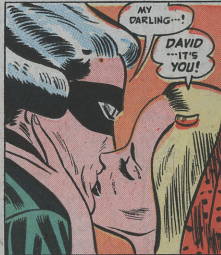
HOW---HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHO ARE YOU?



WELL, I APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN DISGUISSING MY APPEARANCE AND VOICE, AND EVEN MY STYLE OF KISSING---BUT MAYBE YOU'LL REMEMBER WHO USED TO KISS YOU **THIS WAY!**



HE SEIZED ME, ENFOLDED ME IN A FIERCE EMBRACE, AND HIS SEARCHING LIPS SEARED MINE WITH IMPETUOUS ARDOR! THEN, AT LONG LAST, I KNEW! ONLY ONE MAN COULD MAKE ME EXPERIENCE OVERWHELMING LOVE!"



MY DARLING---

DAVID---IT'S YOU!

I---I CAN SEE NOW THAT I WASN'T REALLY FICKLE ENOUGH TO FALL IN LOVE WITH TWO MEN--- YOU WERE THE ONE WHOSE KISSES AROUSED ME SO EACH TIME!

I **HAD** TO CHANGE MY KISSING TECHNIQUE, OR ELSE YOU WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED ME IN SPITE OF MY DISGUISE! YOU SEE, I'D BEEN FOLLOWING YOU EVER SINCE WE BROKE OFF, BECAUSE I HAD A HUNCH THIS GANGSTER WOULD TRY TO SILENCE YOU! WHEN I SAID YOU BUYING THAT COSTUME, I BOUGHT **THIS ONE**, KNOWING YOU WOULD BE HEADING FOR THE **MARDI GRAS!**



I FOLLOWED YOU TO THE PARADE THAT FIRST NIGHT---AND NOTICED THAT **ANOTHER** MAN WAS TRAILING YOU---AND I WAS PRETTY SURE IT WAS OUR MISSING GANGSTER FRIEND! AND WHEN I RECOGNIZED THAT SAME COSTUMED CHARACTER ELBOWING ME AWAY FROM YOU TONIGHT, I PRETENDED TO LOSE MYSELF---BUT KEPT CLOSE BEHIND YOU---AND GOT HERE JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!

THEN IF---IF YOU THOUGHT HARWOOD WOULD TRY TO KILL ME, YOU MUST HAVE BELIEVED IN MY INNOCENCE!



OF **COURSE**, SWEETHEART! BELIEVE ME **NOW** WHEN I SAY I LOVE YOU AND WANT TO MARRY YOU?

OH, YES, **DAVID**---**YES!**



THE END!

My HEART TELLS THE TRUTH

THERE IS NO happiness like being in love, deeply in love, with a wonderful guy and knowing that he feels the same way about you! "And Bruce *does* feel that way about me, I know he does!" Laurie thought, hugging to her mind the memory of last night.

For last night, Bruce's eyes had glowed with happiness, reflecting the feeling in her own heart. He had taken her into his arms and kissed her, not once, but over and over, as though he wouldn't leave off! And Laurie had returned his kisses, measure for measure.

"I love him," she kept saying to herself, "and even though his mind doesn't know it yet, his heart knows that he loves me! And one of these days, soon, he will know it and ask me to marry him!"

She envisioned the proposal, her acceptance, their planning together for all the things they wanted to have, and best of all, the time when they would be together always.

"But I guess I'll just have to wait until Bruce learns all this!" Laurie told her blushing reflection in the mirror. "For no matter *how* modern we are, girls don't propose to men! They wait until they've been asked!"

The happiness that Laurie felt did not weaken as the day passed by. It intensified as the hour drew near for Bruce to call on her. They were going to a party that night. Even parties took on a special interest and flavor these days. Laurie primped so much and brushed her hair and worried about exactly the right shade of lipstick. She wanted to be so perfect for Bruce! She wanted to be beautiful for him at all times, and especially beautiful at the moment when he would declare his love.

Bruce rang the bell a few minutes earlier than he had promised to come.

"A good sign," Laurie thought, running to answer it. "Means he was anxious to get here!" And to Bruce she said, "Hello! Nice of you to come and call for me, considering the fact that the party's at your house!"

"There's no thrill like having a gorgeous gal on your arm for everyone to see!" Bruce answered. "And you *are* gorgeous! If I weren't afraid of spoiling your hair or messing up your lipstick..."

Gravely, Laurie ran her fingers through her hair, rumpling it. Then she raised her lips to Bruce's. He held her for a long moment, close to him, and then kissed her until the room reeled. And, while she combed her hair and repaired her lipstick, he watched her as though he couldn't take his eyes from her face.

"A perfect start for a perfect evening!" Laurie thought, as she and Bruce walked to his house, where guests were already beginning to assemble. The crowd was congenial, relaxed, easy-going. The coffee was excellent and Bruce had some new records which everyone wanted to hear. There was no hint that anything amiss would happen... could *possibly* happen to disturb Laurie's inner joy.

And then, without warning, the door opened and a girl entered. She was a pretty girl, unusually so, and her looks were helped by the blonde, supple furs that wrapped her lithe figure. With a charming smile and complete self-possession, she walked right over to Bruce and reaching up, kissed him on the cheek. "Darling!" she said.

Bruce's eyes widened slightly. "Why, Joanne, what on earth...?"

"Time to talk later, darling," she said. "Your company's not interested in us...so we'll wait until they've gone and have a heart-to-heart talk! Shall we darling?"

Bruce nodded thoughtfully and Laurie's heart contracted with the bitter torment of jealousy. Who *was* this girl? She *had* to know!

Joanne was quite ready to talk about herself. "You see, my dear, Bruce and I were engaged! He was terribly in love with me, and then I thought I no longer loved him! So I left him for Howard Sloane, and that was a terrible mistake, my dear! I'd just been dazzled by Howard! And now that I know what a mistake it was, I've come back to Bruce! It's the only honest thing to do, isn't it?"

Numbly, Laurie shook her head in agreement. How could this be? All her happy hopes snuffed out like a weak candle flame in a giant gust of wind! Suddenly she could bear it no longer, the sight of Joanne's hand laid possessively on Bruce's, the sound of her voice reminding him of old times!

Without a word, she fled from the friendly house to the shelter of her own room, where she could cry farewell to Bruce and happiness! She had lost him...lost him forever!

It was Polly, dear, practical Polly, who was Laurie's closest friend and only confidante, who administered the first slap, the first stinging blow that brought Laurie out of her numb despair. "I'm ashamed of you, Laurie!" she snapped. "If you love this guy, he's worth *fighting* for, isn't he? Then *fight* for him!"

"How? What can I do?" Laurie wailed.

"You've got women's wiles...use 'em!" Polly commanded.

The more Laurie thought about it, the more hopeful she became. The first thing to do was to learn more about Joanne. And by asking around among mutual friends, she learned plenty! The consensus of opinion was that Joanne loved no one but herself. Yes, she'd been engaged to Howard Sloane. She'd also broken the engagement when Howard's hopes for a large inheritance fell through! Joanne was the kind of a girl who checked up on a man's income be-

fore granting him a smile!

Here was a weapon to fight with! Alive with new hope, Laurie called Joanne and asked her to lunch. And Joanne, ever curious, accepted. It was over the desert that Laurie, leaning confidentially towards Joanne, said, "Isn't it a shame about Bruce?"

"What about Bruce?" Joanne asked.

"Why, the bankruptcy, of course! I thought surely *you* knew! His business is failing, Joanne and...oh! I'm sorry if I've spoken out of turn!"

Joanne wanted no more coffee. She wanted to get away as quickly as possible, and Laurie was glad to see her go. Would her strategy work? Was her weapon powerful enough?

She had her answer that evening, when the doorbell rang with an insistent zeal. It was Bruce, who saying nothing, took Laurie in his arms and kissed her as he never had before. "My darling," he said, "where have you been? You just walked out of my life..."

"The instant Joanne walked in!" Laurie finished the sentence for him. "And now that Joanne's walked out, for I know she has..." Laurie felt a sudden dismay as she pulled herself free of Bruce's arms. Would he have come back to her if Joanne *hadn't* been disgraced, discredited, proven to be mercenary? Was she, Laurie, only second-best?

"Come back here!" Bruce ordered, putting his arms around her. "I had this engraved two weeks ago, before Joanne ever showed up! If you don't believe me, you can check with the jeweler!"

It *was* a beautiful engagement ring, but what made it most beautiful was not the diamond flanked by tiny seed pearls. It was the engraving inside the band which read, "To Laurie from Bruce with *all* my love, forever!"

Bruce kissed her as he slipped the ring on her finger. "I knew all about Joanne a long time ago," he said. "You're my girl!"

And Laurie knew he was telling the truth!

LOVE LEARNS a LESSON

"What would you do if
your choice were between
a career... and KISSES?
Would you trade the tender
fire of a man's arms for
the fickle lure of FAME?
Here's a story of my choice
... my bitter-sweet
romance that follow-
ed the path of a will-
o'-the-wisp dream...
to HEARTBREAK!"



WHO CARED FOR THE DRY-AS-DUST
MOUTHINGS OF AN OLD-MAID SCHOOL-
TEACHER? NOT BETTY CRAWFORD... WHO
WAS LOST IN HER OWN THOUGHTS!

REMEMBER...A TRANSITIVE
VERB **ALWAYS** TAKES AN
OBJECT! SUPPOSE YOU
GIVE US AN EXAMPLE,
MISS CRAWFORD!



W-WHAT? ER...
I'M AFRAID I
WASN'T PAYING
ATTENTION,
MISS TURNER!

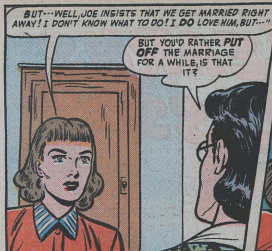
OBVIOUSLY!
PLEASE REMAIN
AFTER CLASS...
WE'VE GOT SOME-
THING TO DISCUSS!



BETTY, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A
GOOD STUDENT UP TO NOW!
WHAT'S WRONG? IS SOME-
THING BOTHERING YOU?

YES, MISS TURNER!
IT---IT'S A BOY, AL
HANLEY! YOU SEE,
WE'RE VERY MUCH
IN LOVE---
BUT---





BUT...WELL, JOE INSISTS THAT WE GET MARRIED RIGHT AWAY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! I DO LOVE HIM, BUT...

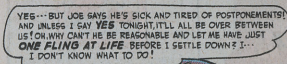
BUT YOU'D RATHER PUT OFF THE MARRIAGE FOR A WHILE, IS THAT IT?



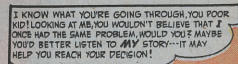
YES! IT'D MEAN JUST BECOMING A HOUSE-WIFE...AND GOODBYE TO MY AMBITIONS TO BE SOMEBODY FIRST!



I SEE! YOU'VE GOT-- AMBITIONS!



YES...BUT JOE SAYS HE'S SICK AND TIRED OF POSTPONEMENTS! AND UNLESS I SAY YES TONIGHT, IT'LL ALL BE OVER BETWEEN US! OH, WHY CAN'T HE BE REASONABLE AND LET ME HAVE JUST ONE FLING AT LIFE BEFORE I SETTLE DOWN? I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!



I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, YOU POOR KID! LOOKING AT ME, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THAT I ONCE HAD THE SAME PROBLEM, WOULD YOU? MAYBE YOU'D BETTER LISTEN TO MY STORY--IT MAY HELP YOU REACH YOUR DECISION!



"I GREW UP IN THE SHADOW OF MY TWIN SISTER, TERRY! WE WERE IDENTICAL...BUT SHE ALWAYS OCCUPIED THE CENTER OF THE STAGE!"

LITTLE JACK HORNOR SAT IN A CORNER...

ISN'T SHE ADORABLE? SUCH A DARLING PERSONALITY!



"NOBODY SPOKE ABOUT ME! WAS IT ANY WONDER I LOST CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF, BECAME JEALOUS OF MY OWN SISTER?"

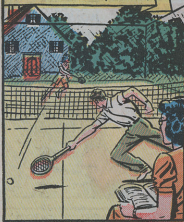
THEY'RE IDENTICAL IN LOOKS, BUT...

YES, I KNOW! TERRY'S THE ONE THAT SPEAKS UP AND DOES THINGS! SHE'S ALWAYS THE LEADER!



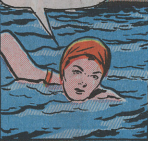
"AND SO I WITHDREW INTO MY BOOKS AS WE GREW OLDER... UNWILLING TO COMPETE WITH TERRY'S CHARM!"

"THE OLDER WE GOT, THE MORE ENVOUS I BECAME OF TERRY'S POPULARITY...AND THE HARDER IT SEEMED FOR ME TO EQUAL HER!"



"SHE WAS GOOD AT EVERYTHING...I, NOTHING! BUT I DETERMINED TO BEST HER IN AT LEAST ONE THING...SWIMMING!"

I'VE GOT TO PROVE I'M BETTER THAN SHE IS! I'VE GOT TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT ELLEN TURNER IS SOMEBODY, TOO!



"Then, during our first year at college..."

SEE THAT GORGEOUS HUNK OF MAN? THAT'S ACE HADLEY, THE STAR HALFBACK! JUST WATCH LITTLE TERRY LAND HIM!



OH!

OOPS!...SORRY, MISS! LET ME PICK UP YOUR BOOKS!



"ONE LOOK AT HIM...AND MY HEART WAS LOST! AND THERE I STOOD AS MY SISTER PROCEEDED TO MAKE HIM HER SLAVE! WITHIN ME I WELLED A DESPERATE RESOLUTION! SOMEHOW, SOMETIME, I WAS GOING TO TAKE ACE HADLEY AWAY FROM HER!"

OH, MR. HADLEY, YOU'RE SO BIG AND STRONG ALONGSIDE OF ME... LITTLE TERRY...



"MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY CAME NEXT NIGHT, WHEN I LEFT THE LIBRARY TO SEE...HIM! HURRIEDLY I REMOVED MY GLASSES, CHOKED DOWN MY SHYNESS..."

ER...HELLO, ACE! REMEMBER M-ME?

HIYA, GOOD-LOOKIN'! WHAT SAY I WALK YOU HOME?



...AND THEN I GRABBED THE BALL ON A FAST LATERAL, SEE...AN' GET OFF DOWN THE FIELD ON A 96-YARD RUN! TOUCH-DOWN...AN' THEY DIDN'T LAY A HAND ON ME!

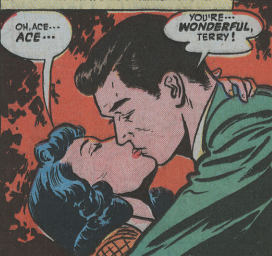
IT'S WONDERFUL BEING WITH YOU! YOU MAKE EVERYTHING SOUND SO VIVID!



"WHEN THE LAKE---SHROUDED IN SILVER MOON-LIGHT! MY HEART THUDDLED, THUDDLED AS HIS HAND STOLE INTO MINE! FOR THE FIRST TIME, A MAN HAD FOUND ME, ELLEN TURNER---**DESIRABLE!**"



"IT HAPPENED THEN---IN A BURST OF FIRE AND ECSTASY! I WAS IN HIS ARMS, HIS LIPS WARMLY EASER UPON MINE---AND THE WORLD WAS A SONG OF RAPTUROUS LOVE!"



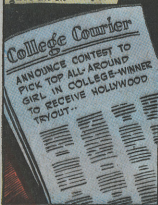
"TERRY! HE THOUGHT I WAS TERRY! WITHIN ME, A TIDE OF ACHING BITTERNESS ROSE---AND BURST IN A TORRENT OF GRIEF!"



"I FLED FROM HIS STUMBLING APOLOGIES---FLED FOR THE SAFETY OF MY ROOM AND THE RELEASE OF TEARS! AND MY SEARING TORMENT LENT NEW STRENGTH TO MY RESOLVE TO PROVE MYSELF AT LEAST TERRY'S EQUAL!"



"Next day, the college paper gave me new hope!"



"TOP ALL-AROUND GIRL! I HAD THE LOOKS---BUT BRAINS WERE NECESSARY, TOO! AND SO I STUDIED DILIGENTLY, FRANTICALLY---FOR I HAD TO WIN THAT CONTEST!"



"THEN CAME THE GREAT DAY---THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNER! MY DAY OF TRIUMPH---I WAS SURE OF IT!"



PICKING THE LUCKY GIRL WASN'T AN EASY JOB!
BEFORE GOING FURTHER, I WILL ASK **MISS
ELLEN TURNER** TO COME FORWARD!



"**IF** HARDLY KNOW HOW I GOT TO THE ROSTRUM! WITHIN
ME, MY HEART SANG OVER AND OVER--- 'YOU'VE MADE IT,
ELLEN! YOU'RE A **SUCCESS!**'"

NOW, ELLEN HAS NOT ONLY GOOD LOOKS,
BUT AN EXCEPTIONAL SCHOLASTIC
RECORD, WITH AN AVERAGE OF
98.2! ...HOWEVER---



---THE JUDGES FELT THAT IN AWARDING SUCH A PRIZE AS A
MOVING-PICTURE TRYOUT, **OTHER** FACTORS BESIDES LOOKS
AND INTELLECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED! SUCH FACTORS AS
PERSONALITY, POPULARITY AND PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES! ACCORDINGLY, **TERRY TURNER HAS BEEN
VOTED TOP ALL-AROUND GIRL---** AND ELLEN IS
AWARDED THIS BRONZE MEDAL FOR **SECOND PRIZE!**



"**IF** I'LL NEVER KNOW HOW I GOT OUT OF THERE,
THE OLD FAMILIAR BITTERNESS AN AGONY WITH-
IN ME! I WANTED TO FIND A HOLE SOMEWHERE
AND CRAWL INTO IT--- FOR GOOD!"

THAT'S WHAT I THINK
OF THEIR OLD MEDAL!
SECOND PLACE---
SECOND FIDDLE
TO TERRY!



**MISS
TURNER!**
PLEASE---
WAIT!

WHO'S---
THAT?



I'M HAL HENDERSON
---I'M IN YOUR
PHYSICS CLASS!
HERE---YOU DROPPED
YOUR MEDAL!

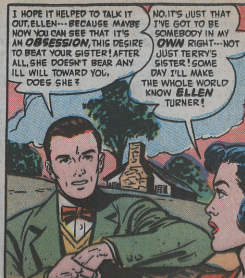
KEEP IT!
**I DON'T
WANT
IT!**



GOSH, I--- I'M
SORRY! IS
THERE ANY-
THING---
WRONG?

U-JUST SOMETHING
I'VE KEPT BOTTLED
UP INSIDE ME S-SO
LONG THAT I'LL
BURST IF I
CAN'T TELL SOME-
ONE! AND I GUESS
IT MIGHT AS WELL
BE **YOU!**





AND THAT'S HOW I MET HAL... THE FIRST MAN TO **REALLY** TAKE AN INTEREST IN ME! WE BECAME CONSTANT COMPANIONS... GOOD FRIENDS..."



"ONE THING MARRED OUR RELATIONSHIP... THE FACT THAT HAL WAS SHY, BOOKISH... AND LACKED THE FLAMING COLOR OF A DASHING ATHLETE LIKE ACE HADLEY!"



"*Ellen came the next night, and it happened, like a bolt from the blue! Quiet, retiring Hal seized me, drew me to him...*"



EHAD MEANT TO STOP HIM, PUSH HIM AWAY... BUT MAGICALLY, I COULDN'T! COULD THIS BE THE MEET BOY I'D KNOWN... HIS LIPS WARM UPON MINE IN A PULSATING KISS THAT KINDLED MY FAST-BEATING HEART TO A RAPTURE I'D NEVER KNOWN?"



"BLISSFUL DREAMS WERE MINE THAT NIGHT! AND NEXT MORNING CAME MY BIG CHANCE!"

FROM ENGLAND TODAY COMES A REPORT THAT AN AMERICAN GIRL MADE A DRAMATIC BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO SWIM THE CHANNEL...

SWIM THE CHANNEL! I'M A GOOD SWIMMER... MAYBE THIS IS MY BIG CHANCE FOR FAME!

"FOR THE NEXT MONTH I PRACTICED DISTANCE SWIMMING SECRETLY, UNDER THE PATIENT DIRECTION OF UNIVERSITY TRAINER FRANK WILLIAMS..."

WATCH YOUR BREATHING, ELLEN! ATTAGIRL!

"FINALLY FRANK FELT THAT I WAS READY FOR THE GREAT TEST! IT TOOK COURAGE TO REVEAL MY SECRET TO HAL..."

YOU'VE BEEN SO PATIENT, HAL... BUT NOW YOU WON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO WAIT! I PROMISE!

YES, BUT SWIMMING THE CHANNEL! WELL... IF YOU'RE SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO...

"I DREW EVERY PENNY I OWNED FROM THE BANK, HIRED FRANK AS MY TRAINER... AND BROKE THE NEWS TO THE PAPERS! IT WAS A SENSATION!"

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'LL TAKE YOU TO SWIM THE CHANNEL, MISS TURNER?

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS IF YOU SUCCEED?

GOOD LUCK, ELLEN! YOU'RE A BRAVE KID!

"IN FRANCE CAME MORE PRACTICE, A STUDY OF CHANNEL TIDES AND WEATHER! BUT FRANK STEELED ME FOR THE CHALLENGING ORDEAL AHEAD!"

YOU'LL MAKE IT, ELLEN... AND WE'LL BOTH BE FAMOUS!

I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT, FRANK! I'VE GOT TO!

"FERRY SENT ME A GOOD-LUCK NOTE, SAYING SHE WAS MAKING HER FIRST MOVIE NEXT MONTH! THE EYES OF THE WORLD WERE UPON ME AS I BEGAN THE BRUELLING CROSSING... KNOWING THAT I HAD TO BEAT MY SISTER TO FAME!"

SHE'S LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS! GET HER OUT OF THERE!

"I WAS GOING FINE... UNTIL A SQUALL AROSE! FOR IT HOURS, I FOUGHT AGAINST THE POUNDING WAVES WITH MY LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH! THEN..."

NO! LET ME ALONE...

"FOLLOWED DAYS OF DELIRIUM... VISIONS OF TERRY AS A GREAT SCREEN STAR AND ME A FAILURE! FINALLY..."

Snap out of it... you've got to go back **SOMETIME!** Though Lord knows I can't figure out now why I let you talk me into this stunt!

How can he ever understand my compulsion to outshine Terry? Only Hal understands... **HAL!**



"HUMILIATED AND DEFEATED, I RETURNED HOME... TO THE ARMS OF MY LOVE!"

How... how could I ever have left you? Hal darling, you've probably been so lonely, waiting for me here!

I didn't realize how much I missed you! There's been so much excitement around here ever since Terry was signed for that part! It's her **BIG CHANCE**, you know!

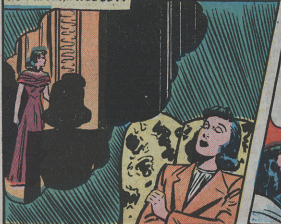


WHAT! You mean you were celebrating **TERRY'S** big chance while I was struggling in the channel?

You're not being fair, Ellen! I was rooting for you... and so was Terry!

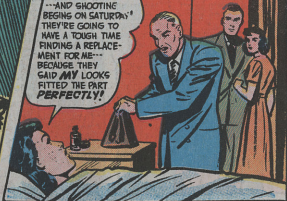


"BUT HE COULDN'T ERASE MY BITTERNESS... NOR MY TORTURED VISIONS OF TERRY AS A GREAT STAR, WHILE I... I... SULKED IN THE SHADOWS, A NOBODY!"



"AND THEN, AS IF FATE HAD SUDDENLY TAKEN PITY ON ME, TERRY CAME DOWN WITH A CASE OF... OF ALL THINGS... MEASLES!"

What rotten luck... and shooting begins on Saturday! They're going to have a tough time finding a replacement for me... because they said **MY** looks fitted the part **PERFECTLY!**



YOUR LOOKS! But... but we look exactly alike! I... I'll bet I can take your place!



Even if you can, Ellen... aren't you forgetting that you promised to settle down and marry me? You're forgetting our love... becoming a slave to **AMBITION!**

But Hal, I **CAN'T** give up **THIS** opportunity! It's what I've always prayed for! We **WILL** be married, dear... **JUST AS SOON AS I BECOME A FAMOUS SCREEN STAR!**



"AND SO I WAS ACCEPTED IN TERRY'S ROLE, AND PLUNGED INTO THE TINSELED MADNESS OF HOLLYWOOD! IT WAS A SMALL BIT PART, AND OTHER BITS FOLLOWED AS I STROVE CONSTANTLY FOR RECOGNITION..."



"AND FINALLY... MY BIG MOMENT ARRIVED! ROMANTIC LEAD... IN A MILLION-DOLLAR MOVIE!"



"IT WAS A TWENTIETH CENTURY CINDERELLA STORY! OVERNIGHT, MY NAME BECAME A HOUSEHOLD WORD!"



"AND THEN... THE ACADEMY AWARD DINNER! ALL MY YEARS OF SUFFERING, HUMILIATION, PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE TO TERRY WERE OVER! FOR FINALLY, I HAD CLIMBED THE GOLDEN STAIRCASE OF FAME!"

A NEW METEOR HAS FLASHED ACROSS THE HOLLYWOOD SKY... A BEAUTIFUL, TALENTED ACTRESS WHOSE NAME NOW LIGHTS A MILLION MOVIE MARQUEES! THE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING ACTRESS... **MISS ELLEN TURNER!**



"THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE... RICH BOUQUETS... THE TRIBUTES I'D LONGED FOR THROUGH THE WEARY YEARS! AND NOW, IN MY MOMENT OF TRIUMPH, I KNEW THE LONG QUEST WAS ENDED..."

HAL, DARLING... **I'VE DONE IT!** AND NOW ALL I WANT IS YOU... YOUR ARMS... **YOUR LOVE!**



SEND A WIRE TO **HAL HENDERSON!** TELL HIM TO MEET THE 8:05 PLANE... **I'M GOING HOME!**



YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW I'VE HUNGRED FOR THIS MOMENT, MARY! **MARRIAGE... TO THE MAN WHO CAN MAKE MY HAPPINESS COMPLETE!**



"NOT EVEN IN MY WILDEST DREAMS COULD I HAVE IMAGINED SUCH A HOMECOMING! THE WHOLE TOWN HAD TURNED OUT TO WELCOME ME!"



"THE MAYOR WAS GIVING ME THE KEY TO THE CITY... BUT I HARDLY NOTICED! I WAS LOOKING FOR HAL... BUT HE WASN'T THERE!"

MISS TURNER, WE'RE PROUD OF YOU... PROUD OF YOUR SHINING SUCCESS...



"B" COULDN'T WAIT TO GET AWAY---TO RACE TOWARDS HAL'S APARTMENT--"

PERHAPS HE'S ILL... OR MAYBE HE DIDN'T GET MY WIFE! WHATEVER IT IS... I'LL NEVER LEAVE HIM AGAIN!



"UP THE STAIRS TO THE OPEN DOOR... WHERE THE BOTTOM FELL OUT OF MY WORLD!"



OH, N-NO! TERRY... HAL...

CONGRATULATE US, ELLEN! HAL AND I WERE MARRIED THIS MORNING!

WE...WE DIDN'T MEAN TO SURPRISE YOU THIS WAY! BUT YOU WERE AWAY SO LONG...AND TERRY AND I...WE FELL IN LOVE! WE KNEW IT WOULDN'T HURT YOU...SINCE YOUR CAREER AND FAME WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE TO YOU!"

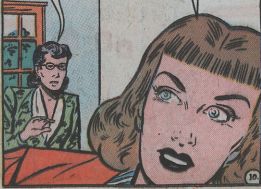


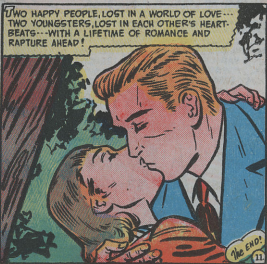
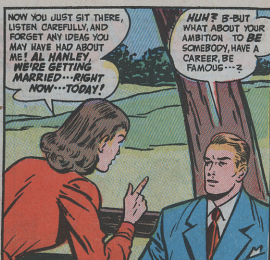
THAT'S MY STORY, BETTY! IT WAS A HEARTBREAKING WAY TO LEARN THAT FAME WITHOUT LOVE IS **EMPTY, MEANINGLESS!** YOU SEE, TIME PASSED, AND MY YOUTH WITH IT...AND THE PUBLIC FORGOT ME! I'D CHASED A WILL-O'-THE-WISP... AND LOST EVERYTHING!



I DON'T KNOW IF THIS HAS HELPED YOU AT ALL, BUT... **BETTY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?**

ON THE RIGHT ROAD! THANKS, MISS TURNER! THANKS LOADS!





UNLUCKY in LOVE

HERE'S A GIRL SETTING OUT ON HER FIRST DATE WITH THIS VERY ATTRACTIVE GUY! WATCH HER CAREFULLY...

I KNOW A NICE LITTLE RESTAURANT OVER ON...

OH, LET'S EAT AT PIERRE'S! IT'S MY FAVORITE PLACE!



OVER THE DINNER TABLE...AT PIERRE'S, OF COURSE...

ISN'T THE FOOD WONDERFUL? YOU MUST TRY THE CREPES SUZETTES FOR DESSERT!

SHE MIGHT HAVE ASKED WHETHER I LIKE 'EM!



AFTER DINNER...

HAVE YOU SEEN "SAGEBRUSH REVENGE"? IT'S PLAYING AT THE...

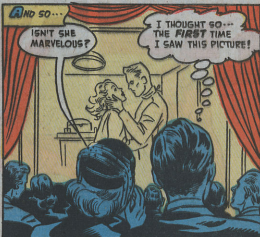
I SIMPLY DETEST WESTERNS! WHY DON'T WE...



AND SO...

ISN'T SHE MARVELOUS?

I THOUGHT SO... THE FIRST TIME I SAW THIS PICTURE!



FINALLY...

IT'S BEEN LOVELY! I HAD A MOST PLEASANT EVENING!

ER...YES... I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN... SOON!



SHE'LL WAIT FOR HIS CALL...AND WAIT IN VAIN! IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT ANNOYS A MAN, IT'S A WOMAN WHO TAKES OVER AND TRIES TO DO HIS THINKING FOR HIM!

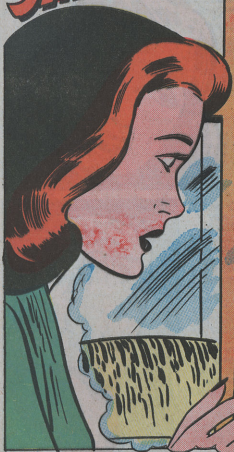


THE GIRL WHO TRIES TO HAVE EVERYTHING HER OWN WAY IS DEATH TO ROMANCE AND FUTURE DATES! HER PHONE WON'T RING A SECOND TIME!

"Dowdy" LEON (W)

SMALL-TOWN GIRL

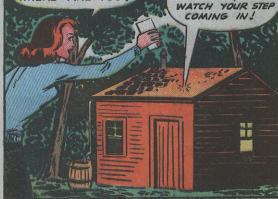
"THROUGH THE WINDOW OF MY IMAGINATION, I SAW MYSELF FAR AWAY FROM MAYTOWN! THE BIG CITY TEMPTED ME LIKE A FLASHING LURE, PROMISING ME GLAMOUR, EXCITEMENT AND A LOVER WHO HAD SEEN THE WORLD AND WANTED ONLY...ME!"



"I'D LIVED IN MAYTOWN ALL MY LIFE, EXCEPT FOR MY COLLEGE YEARS. AS FAR AS I KNEW, I WOULD ALWAYS LIVE IN MAYTOWN!"

BART! OH, BART... WHERE ARE YOU?

HERE! IN THE WORKSHOP, HONEY! WATCH YOUR STEP COMING IN!



"BART HUNTER WAS THE BOY NEXT DOOR... AND MY FIANCÉ! IT WAS THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD TO BE MARRYING HIM... I'D KNOWN HIM SO LONG!"

TAKE IT EASY WITH THOSE WIRES, KATIE... YOU WANT TO EXPLODE MAYTOWN?

OH, WHO CARES ABOUT MAYTOWN?

GUESS WHAT? I'VE JUST HAD A LETTER... DEEDEE SMITH'S COMING... HERE!



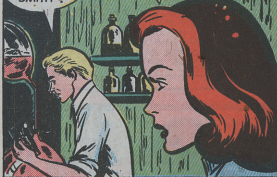
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"UNIMPRESSED, BART WENT RIGHT ON TINKERING! SOMETIMES, HE REALLY WAS MADDENING!"

YOU DON'T SAY! WHO OR WHAT IS DEEDEE SMITH?

IF YOU'LL STOP PLAYING WITH YOUR SCIENCE SET FOR A MINUTE, I'LL BE GLAD TO TELL YOU!

DEEDEE WAS MERELY THE MOST GLAMOROUS, POPULAR, GORGEOUS GIRL IN SCHOOL! SHE WAS CLEVER, STUNNING AND VOTED MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED...AND SHE'S COMING TO VISIT ME!



"BART JUST LOOKED AT ME FOR A MINUTE, THEN..."

HONEY, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU WERE, ARE AND ALWAYS WILL BE THE MOST GLAMOROUS GIRL ANYWHERE, ANY TIME! DEEDEE SMITH OR NOT!

BUT, BART, YOU--

"HE WOULD NOT LISTEN! INSTEAD, HE PRESSED HIS LIPS TO MINE, WARMLY AND TENDERLY! HIS ARMS HELD ME TIGHTLY, ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY WERE TRYING TO KEEP ME FROM... ESCAPING!"



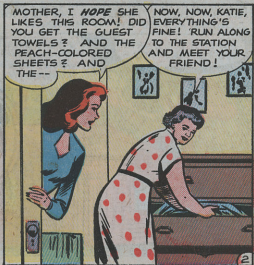
LOVE ME, KATIE?

YOU...KNOW I DO, BART!

"ALTHOUGH BART DIDN'T CARE ABOUT DEEDEE'S VISIT, I DID! I SUPPOSE, IN A WAY, THAT I STILL HAD A SCHOOLGIRL CRUSH ON HER!"

MOTHER, I HOPE SHE LIKES THIS ROOM! DID YOU GET THE GUEST TOWELS? AND THE PEACH-COLORED SHEETS? AND THE--

NOW, NOW, KATIE, EVERYTHING'S FINE! RUN ALONG TO THE STATION AND MEET YOUR FRIEND!



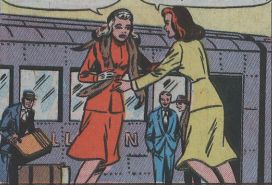
"I WAS A FEW MINUTES EARLY, SO I RE-READ DEEDEE'S LETTER..."

and the social whirls been so dizzy, that our doctor prescribed a rest for me! I thought of you and your quiet life in that little town of yours and wondered if you would mind if you visited your smiling old aunt. I want to be properly happy together for your major school. I am sure you will have

"SUDDENLY, THERE SHE WAS! HER MATCHED WHITE LUGGAGE, HER FURS AND FRENCH PERFUME... JUST AS I REMEMBERED HER!"

KATE, DARLING! HOW SWEET OF YOU TO MEET ME!

I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU, DEEDEE! HONESTLY, I'M THRILLED!

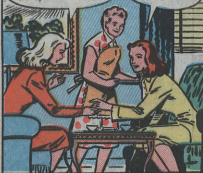


"MOTHER HAD FIXED SANDWICHES AND A POT OF TEA AND SERVED THEM ON HER BEST LACE CLOTH! WE ALL SAT AROUND, GETTING RE-ACQUAINTED..."



MY DEARS, THE TRIP WAS GHASTLY, BUT I... WHY, KATIE! IS THAT AN ENGAGEMENT RING? YOU'RE NOT MARRYING A HOME-GROWN BOY, ARE YOU?

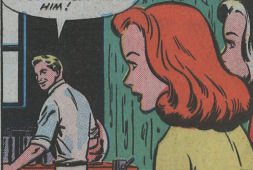
I CERTAINLY AM! COME ON, DEEDEE, I WANT YOU TO MEET BART! YOU'LL LIKE HIM!



"I WISHED BART HAD CLEANED UP A BIT OR COMBED HIS HAIR..."

WELCOME, MISS SMITH! AND BEWARE OF THOSE WIRES! YOU ARE NOW GAZING ON A MAN WHOSE HOBBY RIDES HIM!

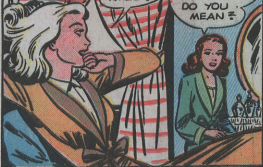
HELLO! I THINK ALL THIS PUTTERING IS RATHER CUTE!



"THAT NIGHT, WE HAD A REAL GIRL SESSION! DEEDEE WAS FULL OF AMUSING STORIES AND GOSSIP! THEN, SHE STRETCHED OUT AND YAWNED..."

TELL ME THE TRUTH, KATIE... DON'T YOU FIND MAYTOWN A LITTLE... WELL... DULL AT TIMES?

GOSH, DEEDEE, I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



"SHE LOOKED AT ME RATHER STRANGELY AND SMILED... VERY MUCH AS A GROWNUP SMILES AT A CHILD!"

OH, NOTHING REALLY! MAYBE I'LL TELL YOU... SOME OTHER TIME!

I WISH YOU WOULD! HOPE YOU SLEEP WELL, DEEDEE... THERE'S EXTRA BLANKETS IN THE BOTTOM DRESSER DRAWER!



"AS I PINNED UP MY HAIR, I WONDERED... AND FELT STRANGELY UNEASY! WAS DEEDEE LAUGHING AT SOMETHING? WAS SHE LAUGHING AT ME?"

WHAT DID SHE MEAN ABOUT MAYTOWN? OH, I KNOW THIS 'ISN'T' HER KIND OF LIFE... BUT SHE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING SOME KIND OF JOKE! DOES SHE THINK THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT US...?



"THE WEEK MELTED AWAY! EVERY DAY, DEEDEE WORE ANOTHER DRESS, ANOTHER PAIR OF SHOES TO GO WITH IT! EVERYTHING SHE OWNED WAS STUNNING AND EXPENSIVE... BIG-TOWN!"

WHY, KATIE, YOU LOOK PERFECT IN THAT... NOT LIKE MAYTOWN AT ALL! WHY DON'T YOU WEAR IT AND SURPRISE BART?

IT...IT'S BREATH-TAKING! ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MIND?



"BART TOOK US TO DINNER AND THE MOVIES THAT NIGHT! WHEN HE SAW ME IN DEEDEE'S DRESS, HE FROWNED A LITTLE... BUT HE NEVER SAID A WORD!"

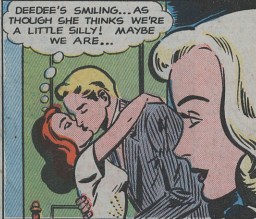
I'M A LUCKY GUY TO BE ESCORTING TWO SUCH BEAUTIES AT ONE TIME!

WHY, BART, WHAT A GALLANT SPEECH FOR A MAYTOWN BOY! I THINK THERE'S HOPE FOR HIM, KATIE!



"WHEN HE SAW US HOME, BART SIMPLY AND UN-SELFCONSCIOUSLY TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS AND KISSED ME! I WAS EMBARRASSED..."

DEEDEE'S SMILING... AS THOUGH SHE THINKS WE'RE A LITTLE SILLY! MAYBE WE ARE...



"IT WAS DEEDEE'S LAST NIGHT IN MAYTOWN AND SOMEHOW, NEITHER OF US FELT LIKE GOING TO SLEEP..."

DEEDEE, REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID THE FIRST NIGHT OF YOUR VISIT? ABOUT MAYTOWN? TELL ME MORE--

OH, KATIE, GROW UP! IF YOU CAN'T SEE IT YOURSELF, YOU'RE BLIND! A ONE-HORSE TOWN WITH TWO MOVIE HOUSES AND A PARK! IT'S BEEN A GRAND REST, KATIE, BUT IF I HAD TO LIVE HERE... I'D STIFLE!



YOU WERE A SMART GIRL IN SCHOOL! DO YOU WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE SHOPPING, COOKING, CROCHETING AND SEEING THAT THE KIDS' FEET DON'T GET WET?



"SHE TOLD ME ABOUT NEW YORK... THE SHOPS, THEATERS, RESTAURANTS! A SMART GIRL COULD GET A CAREER JOB, SHE SAID! AND AS FOR MARRIAGE..."

I HATE TO DISCOURAGE YOU, KATIE, BUT REALLY! BART'S SWEET AND RATHER AMUSING WITH HIS LITTLE JOB AND HIS QUIANT LITTLE SCIENTIFIC HOBBY! I SUPPOSE HE'LL MAKE YOU A GOOD HUSBAND...IF HE EVER STOPS TINKERING!



"I COULDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT! SOMETHING EXPLOSIVE WAS HAPPENING...MY MIND WAS A WHIRLPOOL!"

BART...I DON'T KNOW! DEEDEE KNOWS SO MUCH AND SHE MAY BE RIGHT! WHAT'S IT LIKE IN NEW YORK? SMART CLOTHES...A CAREER...EXCITING PEOPLE...



"THE NEXT MORNING, BART AND I SAW DEEDEE OFF! IT WAS THE END OF HER VISIT...BUT THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING ELSE FOR ME!"

DON'T LOOK SO BLUE, KATIE! YOU'LL BE SEEING EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON!

IT...IT ISN'T THAT, BART! IT'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT!



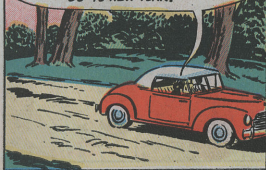
"AS WE DROVE FROM THE STATION, I REALIZED SUDDENLY THAT I WAS ANGRY...FULL OF BURNING RESENTMENT..."

BART, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND! I...I THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALL LAST NIGHT! I'M GOING AWAY! I WANT YOU TO TAKE BACK YOUR RING!



"I COULD FEEL BART'S SHOCK, HIS STUNNED DISBELIEF! BUT NOTHING COULD STOP THE WORDS THAT POURED FROM MY LIPS!"

WE'RE SMALL-TOWN, BART! YOU'RE SMALL-TOWN! YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE JOB AND A...A QUIANT LITTLE SCIENTIFIC HOBBY AND YOU'RE SATISFIED! WELL, I'M NOT! I WANT TO GO TO NEW YORK!



"AT HIS TOUCH, I FELT A PANG OF REMORSE LIKE THE PAIN OF PARTING! BUT ALL HE SAID WAS..."

KATIE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING? ARE YOU SURE YOU MEAN IT?

YES, YES, I DO! I WANT TO BE SOMEBODY... TO KNOW PEOPLE THAT COUNT! I... I'M REALLY GOING, BART!



"A FEW WORDS FROM DEEDEE HAD CHANGED MY LIFE, GIVEN ME THE COURAGE TO BREAK AWAY FROM HOME! I CAN'T DESCRIBE MY JOY AND FEAR AS I SET FOOT ON THE PAVEMENT OF NEW YORK!"

SOMEWHERE AMONG THOSE BUILDINGS, I'M GOING TO FIND EVERYTHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED! IT'S ALL HERE...WAITING FOR ME!



"DEEDEE HELPED ME TO FIND A JOB! A FRIEND OF HERS WAS A MANUFACTURER OF EXQUISITE NEGLIGÉES AND HOUSECOATS AND I WAS TO BE A MODEL!"

YOU'LL MEET A LOT OF MEN IN THIS BUSINESS, MISS WARREN...SALESMEN, BUYERS, HUNDREDS OF THEM! DON'T TAKE THEM TOO SERIOUSLY!

I'LL BE CAREFUL, MR. KASPER!

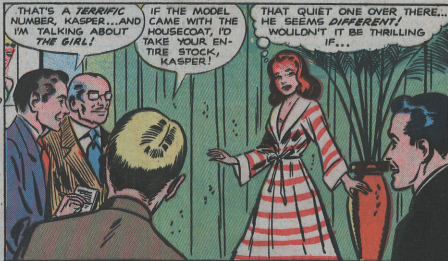


"I SOON LEARNED WHAT MR. KASPER MEANT: AFTER TWO WEEKS, I HAD FOUGHT OFF THE OVERTURES OF AT LEAST TEN TIRED BUSINESSMEN AND LEARNED TO TAKE THEIR COMPLIMENTS LIGHTLY! BUT IT GAVE ME AN INNER GLOW TO BE ADMURED!"

THAT'S A TERRIFIC NUMBER, KASPER...AND I'M TALKING ABOUT THE GIRL!

IF THE MODEL CAME WITH THE HOUSECOAT, I'D TAKE YOUR ENTIRE STOCK, KASPER!

THAT QUIET ONE OVER THERE... HE SEEMS DIFFERENT! WOULDN'T IT BE THRILLING IF...



"I HARDLY FINISHED THE THOUGHT WHEN, LIKE A MAGIC WISH IN A FAIRY TALE...IT CAME TRUE!"

THIS FABRIC IS PURE-DYE SILK CREPE! THE TRIMMING IS PURE SILK BRAID, IMPORTED FROM FRANCE AND ESPECIALLY WOVEN--

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CONSIDER HAVING DINNER WITH ME, WOULD YOU?



"THIS COULD NEVER HAPPEN IN MAYTOWN! NOR WOULD I EVER HAVE GIVEN THE ANSWER."

WHY...I RATHER THINK I MIGHT! IN FACT, I WILL...IF THIS IS AN INVITATION!

I'LL PICK YOU UP HERE AT CLOSING TIME! SAY SIX O'CLOCK?



"IT WAS HAPPENING AS DEEDEE HAD SAID! I WAS A MODEL LIVING IN NEW YORK, AND HAVING DINNER AT A SWANKY RESTAURANT WITH ONE OF THE HANDSOMEST MEN I'D EVER SEEN!"



WAITER, SOME WHITE WINE, PLEASE ...VERY DRY! OR WOULD YOU PREFER SOMETHING ELSE?

OH, NO, WHATEVER YOU SAY!

"DINNER WAS FABULOUS... AND SO WAS MAL DONOHUE! HE WAS POLISHED, ASSURED AND COMPLETELY AT HOME IN THE BEWILDERING, GLITTERING CITY! WHEN THE EVENING ENDED..."

I LOVED IT, EVERY MINUTE OF IT! YOU PROBABLY THINK I'M JUST A LITTLE HICK!

OH, I DO! THAT'S WHAT I FIND SO ATTRACTIVE! LET'S REPEAT THIS DATE, SHALL WE?



"WINE AND LACK OF SLEEP MADE ME LATE FOR WORK THE NEXT DAY, BUT I WAS TOO FULL OF ROMANTIC DREAMS TO CARE..."

MAL DONOHUE...HE'S REAL NEW YORK...AND I'M SURE HE LIKED ME! MAYBE--

MISS WARREN, BE CAREFUL! YOU ALMOST SPILLED SOME WATER ON THAT TAFFETA!



"[I]N MY ROOM, AFTER WORK, I LOOKED AROUND, SEEING THE UGLY 'FURNISHED' LOOK! WELL, THAT WOULDN'T LAST! I WAS ON MY WAY UP TO DEEDEE'S BRACKET, WASN'T I?"

MESSAGE FOR YA, MISS WARREN! MAN NAMED DONOHUE... SAID HE'D CALL FOR YA TONIGHT! NOW, WE DON'T ALLOW MEN IN HERE--

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MRS. BAKER, I'LL MEET HIM DOWNSTAIRS!



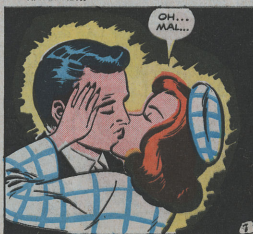
"I FLEW ABOUT THE ROOM, NO LONGER AWARE OF ITS DINGINESS! EVEN MR. KASPER'S BAD TEMPER WAS FORGOTTEN AS I RUSHED TO MEET MAL!"

THIS IS WONDERFUL! YOU'LL NEVER KNOW--

OH, NO? I'VE BEEN THINKING OF YOU ALL DAY!

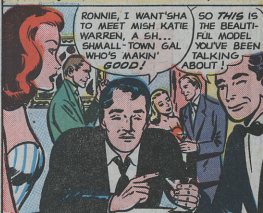


"[W]HAT HAPPENED THEN SEEMED COMPLETELY NATURAL..."



OH... MAL...

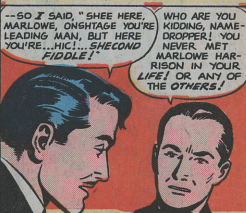
"**W**EEKS AND MONTHS PASSED! MY LIFE WAS A CONSTANT RACE... RUSH TO WORK, RUSH TO LUNCH, RUSH HOME... I HARDLY HAD TIME TO THINK! MAL LIKED TO GO OUT A LOT, TOO..."



RONNIE, I WANT'SHA TO MEET MISH KATIE WARREN, A SH... SHMALL-TOWN GAL WHO'S MAKIN' GOOD!

SO THIS IS THE BEAUTIFUL MODEL YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT!

"**M**AL MUST HAVE BEEN A LITTLE TIGHT, FOR I'D NEVER SEEN HIM SO NOBLY! HE INSISTED ON TELLING STORY AFTER STORY ABOUT FAMOUS PEOPLE HE KNEW..."



--SO I SAID, "SHEE HERE, MARLOWE, ONSHAGE YOU'RE LEADING MAN, BUT HERE YOU'RE...HIC!... SHECOND FIDDLE!"

WHO ARE YOU KIDDING, NAME-DROPPER! YOU NEVER MET MARLOWE HARRISON IN YOUR LIFE! OR ANY OF THE OTHERS!

"**I** HOPED THAT MAL WOULD PROVE HIS STORY, BUT HE JUST SHRUGGED AND HAD ANOTHER DRINK! I WANTED DESPERATELY TO GO HOME! ON THE WAY..."



WHATSHA MATTER WITH YOU, BABY? YOU'RE A WET-BLANKET TONIGHT!

MAL...IS IT TRUE? WHAT YOUR FRIEND SAID ABOUT YOU? DO YOU KNOW MARLOWE HARRISON?



"**H**E DIDN'T BOTHER TO ANSWER! I KNEW THEN THAT HE WAS A LIAR, A PRETENDER WHOSE GLOSSY VENEER COULDN'T HIDE THE UNDERLYING CHEAPNESS!"



I'VE BEEN WININ' AND DININ' YOU FOR A LONG TIME, KATIE! ISHNT IT TIME YOU ASKED ME UP TO YOUR PLACE?

NO, MAL! YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT PERMITTED MEN VISITORS!

AW, COME ON, BABY, DON'T BE A SMALL-TOWN PRUDE! SHTANDARDS ARE DIFFERENT IN...HIC...THE BIG TOWN! HERE YOU CAN RELAKSH...BE YOURSELF!



I AM BEING MYSELF...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME!

"**I**T WAS ALL SO CLEAR! HIS INTEREST IN ME WAS AS PHONEY AS HE WAS! I SPOKE THROUGH CLENCHED TEETH TO FIGHT BACK THE HYSTERIA."



YOU LIKED MY BEING A LITTLE HICK, DIDN'T YOU! TOO BAD I'VE GOTTEN SMARTER, MAL! YOU SEE, I AM A SMALL-TOWN PRUDE AND I DON'T LIKE YOU AT ALL! GO AWAY... FAR AWAY!



AW, KATIE, YOU DON'T--

"**DISGUSTED!**
I
TURNED
AWAY!
THEM, IN
THE
PRIVACY
OF MY
ROOM, I
SUMMONED
ENOUGH
COURAGE
TO
"FACE...
DISILLUS-
IONMENT!"



HOW STUPID I'VE BEEN, HOW
BLIND! A SHODDY JOB, A SMALL,
DARK ROOM, A SECOND-RATE
MAN...HOW COULD I HAVE BELIEV-
ED THEY WERE **THE REAL THING!**
AND...AND ALL THE TIME, I **HAD**
THE REAL THING AND DIDN'T
KNOW IT!



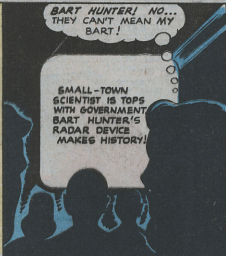
BIG-TOWN PEOPLE ARE JUST LIKE SMALL-
TOWNERS...ONLY THERE ARE **MORE** OF
THEM! WELL, MY HEART'S IN MAYTOWN
AND **THAT'S** WHERE I'M GOING... **TO**
BART!



"**MY** HEART
GREW
LIGHTER!
BACK TO
BART...
BACK TO
LOVE!
FEVERISHLY,
I RAN
ALL THE
WAY TO
GRAND
CENTRAL
STATION,
ONLY TO
LEARN I WAS
ONE HOUR TOO
EARLY! THE
NEWSREEL
THEATER
WAS
NEAR..."

BART HUNTER! NO...
THEY CAN'T MEAN MY
BART!

SMALL-TOWN
SCIENTIST IS TOPS
WITH GOVERNMENT
BART HUNTER'S
RADAR DEVICE
MAKES HISTORY!



"**BUT IT WAS!** ON THE NEWSTAND, RIGHT
OUTSIDE THE MOVIE HOUSE..."

I...I'LL TAKE THESE, PLEASE...
AND THESE NEWSPAPERS,
TOO! HURRY!



"**ON A**
WAITING-
ROOM BENCH,
I READ
ABOUT BART
HUNTER OF
MAYTOWN!
FETED BY
ENGINEERS,
AWARDED BY
PHYSICISTS,
OFFERED A
GOVERNMENT
POSITION...
BART HUNTER,
THE REAL
ELITE OF THE
WORLD!
ONLY...HE
WAS NO
LONGER
MINE!"

I WAS GOING TO BE
SOMEBODY! WELL, I
CAN'T HAVE BART
ANY MORE, BUT I'VE
GOT TO FIND HIM
...I'VE GOT TO
APOLOGIZE!

DID YOU
SAY
SOME-
THIN',
LADY?



"**HE** WAS
STAYING AT
A NEW YORK
HOTEL!
PERHAPS
HE'D BE OUT
...I COULD
LEAVE A
NOTE...I
COULD EXPLAIN
WITHOUT THE
HEARTBREAK
OF SEEING
HIM! BUT,
NO! HE WAS
THERE, HIS
DOOR WAS
OPEN...AND
HE HAD A
VISITOR!"

GO OUT AND
HAVE A NICE,
BRISK WALK, DEAR!
YOU **NEED** THE
EXERCISE AND
RELAXATION! I'LL
HANDLE THE
PHONE!

DEEDEE!
WITH
BART!



"AS I
WATCHED
HIM LEAVE,
I PRAYED,
DON'T LET
HIM SEE
ME! I
WAS AFRAID
HE WOULD
HEAR MY
HEART
POUNING
AND FIND
ME! AND
I COULDN'T
SEE HIM...
I COULDN'T
BEAR IT!
BUT
DEEDEE...
I WOULD
SEE
HER!"

HOW I UNDERSTAND HER CAREER
... CONNIVING TO GET WHAT SHE
WANTS, USING HER GLAMOUR AS
A WEAPON, PLAYING ON PEOPLES'
HOPES AND WEAKNESSES!



"I WALKED RIGHT IN AND GLANNED THE DOOR!
DEEDEE JUMPED... THEN SHE GULPED AT ME... A
FROZEN, PANICKY SMILE..."

WHY,
KATIE,
DARLING,
IT'S SO
GOOD
TO--

SHUT UP, DEEDEE! I'VE COME TO TELL
YOU ALL ABOUT YOURSELF! YOU
DELIBERATELY FED MY IMAGINATION
WITH LIES, MY EGO WITH COMPLIMENTS!
YOU DELIBERATELY MADE ME UNHAPPY
WITH MY LIFE IN
MAYTOWN--

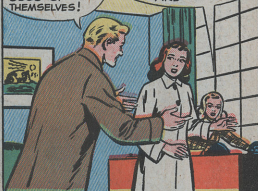


--BECAUSE YOU WANTED MY LIFE! YOU
WANTED BART! AND LIKE A FOOL, I FOLLOWED
YOUR WARPED ADVICE, LOSING THE ONLY
WORTHWHILE THINGS I HAD... MY HOME, AND
THE MAN I LOVE! YOU'RE ROTTEN, DEEDEE...
I HATE YOU!



BUT YOU STILL
LOVE ME, DON'T
YOU, KATIE? I
LISTENERS SOME-
TIMES DO HEAR
GOOD OF
THEMSELVES!

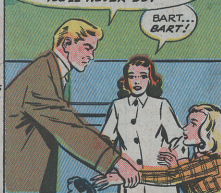
DON'T LISTEN TO
HER, BART! SHE'S
HYSTERICAL... OR DRUNK!
MAKE HER LEAVE! I'LL
CALL THE MANAGER
AND--



"SOO
STUNNED
AND
ASHAMED
TO MOVE,
I SAW
BART
STRIDE
OVER TO
DEEDEE
AND TAKE
HER HAND
FROM THE
PHONE! HIS
WORDS
SEEMED TO
COME
FROM
FAR
AWAY..."

DROP THAT PHONE, DEEDEE! I WANT
KATIE HERE! I WANT HER WITH ME
ALWAYS! SHE MADE A MISTAKE, BUT
SHE'S WISER AND FINER FOR ADMIT-
TING IT! THAT'S SOMETHING
YOU'LL NEVER DO!

BART...
BART!



"THE SWEET,
FAMILAR
NEARNESS...
KISSES
THAT DRIED
MY TEARS
AND ERASED
THE
UGLINESS
I HAD
KNOWN...
BART'S ARMS,
HOLDING ME
WITH A
FIERCENESS
I HAD
NEVER
SUSPECTED
IN
HIM..."

BART, I'VE GOT
TO EXPLAIN... IT'S
NOT BECAUSE
YOU'RE
IMPORTANT OR
FAMOUS
OR--

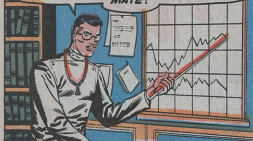
YOU'RE HOME,
KATIE! AREN'T
YOU GOING TO
GIVE YOUR
FELLA A
KISS?



The End...

MEET *your* MATE

STATISTICS SHOW THAT THERE ARE 3,400,000 MORE WOMEN THAN MEN IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY--AND THAT THE NUMBER OF MARRIAGES ARE DECLINING YEAR AFTER YEAR, DESPITE THE INCREASE IN OUR POPULATION! THIS MEANS THAT SOME **THREE MILLION** GIRLS OF MARRIAGEABLE AGE WILL NEVER MARRY--AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ONE OF THOSE GIRLS, YOU'D BETTER START DOING SOMETHING ABOUT **MEETING YOUR MATE!**



"YOUR BEST BET, OF COURSE, IS TO PUT YOURSELF IN A POSITION WHERE YOU CAN BE SEEN BY LOTS OF MEN, ON THE THEORY THAT **SOME** OF THEM ARE BOUND TO BE ATTRACTED TO YOU AND SUCCUMB TO YOUR CHARM! FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU CAN LAND A JOB AS A RECEPTIONIST IN A BUSY OFFICE, YOU'RE LIKELY TO MEET MANY ELIGIBLE YOUNG MEN WITH PROMISING CAREERS!"

MR. HARTWOOD WILL SEE YOU GENTLEMEN IN A FEW MINUTES!

WE DON'T MIND WAITING...AS LONG AS THERE'S SOMEONE AS LOVELY AS YOU TO KEEP US COMPANY!



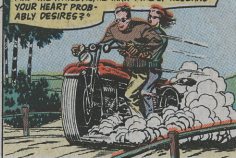
"ANOTHER ENVIABLE JOB IS THAT OF AN AIR-PLANE HOSTESS...FOR THAT PUTS YOU IN THE POSITION OF MEETING PROSPEROUS MEN WHO DON'T RELISH A LONELY EVENING IN A STRANGE TOWN THEY'RE JUST VISITING ON BUSINESS--AND WILL BE ONLY TOO DELIGHTED TO SQUIRE A CHARMING, DECENT GIRL AROUND TOWN!"

FASTEN YOUR SAFETY BELT, PLEASE--WE'RE COMING INTO HANCOCK FIELD, SYRACUSE!

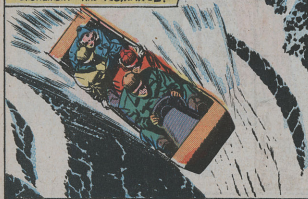
YOU MEAN THE TRIP IS OVER SO SOON? LOOKING AT YOU, I WAS HOPING IT WOULD NEVER END... IF THIS IS THE END OF YOUR RUN, I'D CONSIDER IT AN HONOR TO TAKE YOU TO DINNER IN TOWN!



"OR, IF YOU'RE THE OUTDOOR TYPE, TRY JOINING A LOCAL MOTORCYCLE CLUB FOR FUN AND ROMANCE! VERY FEW GIRLS GO IN FOR THAT KIND OF SPORT, SO YOU'LL HAVE VERY LITTLE FEMININE COMPETITION IN YOUR QUEST FOR A MATE--AND WHAT BETTER PLACE CAN YOU THINK OF TO FIND THE ATHLETIC, HE-MAN TYPE OF HUSBAND YOUR HEART PROBABLY DESIRES?"



"IN THE WINTER TIME, YOU MIGHT GO IN FOR TOBAGGANING--A TYPICALLY MALE SPORT, AND ONE WHICH OFFERS GOOD, CLEAN EXCITEMENT--AND ROMANCE!"



YES, THE SMART GIRL DOESN'T SIT HOME WORRYING ABOUT THE SHORTAGE OF ELIGIBLE MALES--SHE COOLLY SURVEYS THE FIELD, FINDS OUT WHICH JOBS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES GIVE HER THE BEST CHANCE OF MEETING MEN WITHOUT THE HANDICAP OF BEING SWAMPED BY FEMININE COMPETITION

--AND THEN SHE GOES OUT TO MEET THE MAN WHO WILL BECOME HER MATE!



THROW UP YOUR HANDS!

and **CHEER** for a
**ONCE - IN - A -
LIFETIME
COMICS MAGAZINE!**

BLAZING WEST

---A SLAMBANG, THRILL-A-
MINUTE WESTERN COMIC
THAT TOPS THEM ALL!



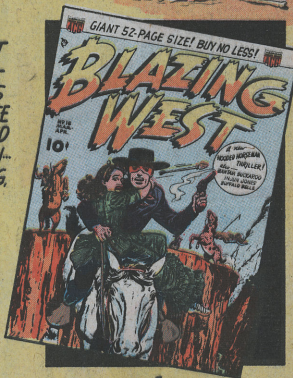
You'll GASP AT
FAST-SHOOTING, RED-
BLOODED GUNFIGHTERS
THAT PACK A POWERHOUSE
PUNCH...CHILL TO PAINTED
INJUNS ON THE WARRPATH...
THRILL TO HARD-FIGHTING,
FAST-RIDING COWBOY
HEROES!

★ ★ ★

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western like this...
it's an action-packed
killer-diller! So...

don't miss

BLAZING WEST!



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Check ☐ Girdle ☐ Girdle crotch
CORRECT SEND EXTRA
SIZE please ME CROTCHES @ 49¢ ea.

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Print

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Cover

K BALD

STREETER / JENNY WALSH

1PG "JUNELIAS" = JOHN ALTON?
" " " " OR A BATMAN ARTIST

MORITZ +

1PG DUNDY LEON = LEON LAZARUS
P. RUSS

1PG AL GARDON OR MOLNO